

# THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

INSIDE

Iowa 'sexual predator' law:  
menace to democratic rights

— PAGE 7

VOL. 58/NO. 21 May 30, 1994

## Caterpillar workers walk out in Illinois

BY PETER THIERJUNG

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — Some 7,500 workers are on strike at Caterpillar Inc.'s facilities in central Illinois.

The walkout began May 16 at the company's Mossville engine plant where members of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) charged management with unfair labor practices. The action spread rapidly to the foundry in Mapleton and to Caterpillar's complex here.

Actions by the company to discipline dozens of UAW members in the last few weeks provoked the walkout. More than 30 workers were indefinitely suspended for allegedly missing mandatory overtime May 7. They attended a rally that day of some 15,000 unionists in Peoria, Illinois, called by the UAW international leadership.

Union officials reported that another 30 workers were given short-term suspensions for chanting union slogans as they walked to and from work areas and for hanging balloons from tool boxes.



United Auto Workers member Ken Hite waves to passing motorists outside Caterpillar's plant in York, Pennsylvania. Workers there walked out May 12 for three days. On May 16, more than 7,500 UAW members struck the company's Mossville plant and other facilities in Illinois.

Caterpillar's spokesmen have focused their fire on the use of balloons in the plant, charging the workers with child-like behavior.

The issue is not the balloons, but "the right of workers to show their support for the union," said Kenny Whetstone, a machine operator with 23 years' seniority at

Caterpillar. "The company acts like you leave your constitutional rights at the door when you come to work."

Whetstone, who works in East Peoria, said workers here walked out in support of their fellow union members in Mossville because "solidarity is the only way to protect

Continued on Page 11

## 8,000 teachers strike in Canada

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — More than 8,000 teachers in nearby Newfoundland province went on strike May 16 against cuts to wages, benefits, and education services. This is the first of several potential strikes in three Atlantic Canada provinces, where provincial governments are using union-busting tactics to go after social services and public sector wages and working conditions.

"I'm really glad that this is the way things have gone because there is no other solution," said teacher Aileen O'Rafferty in St. John's, Newfoundland. She added that teachers are "terribly upset for the students."

The Newfoundland government wants to cut \$20 million from teachers' wages and benefits, including pensions. It wants teachers to work longer hours with fewer days off. Several hundred teachers will lose their jobs as a result of cuts to education pro-

Continued on Page 14

## 'Militant' sales drive: a smashing success

BY PAT SMITH

We did it! Supporters of the *Militant* reached all three goals of the international circulation campaign in full and on time. Now, for several months to come, nearly 3,900 additional unionists, students, anti-apartheid activists, defenders of abortion rights, and others will be following working-class struggles every week in the pages of the *Militant* and its monthly Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva*

Continued on Page 4

## S. Africa gov't establishes ties with Cuba

BY GREG ROSENBERG

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The South African government established diplomatic relations with the government of revolutionary Cuba May 11. It was one of the first decisions taken by newly elected president Nelson Mandela. The agreement was formalized at a meeting between Cuban

foreign minister Roberto Robaina and South African foreign minister Alfred Nzo. South African television reported that Havana will soon open an embassy here.

A Cuban foreign ministry statement said that "for Cuba, which shed on the soil of Africa the generous blood of its best sons, it is a moment of joy and pride to share with

its South African brothers the start of this important page in its history and to contribute with its modest efforts to the building of a multiracial and genuinely democratic South Africa."

During and after the presidential inauguration May 10, no international guest attracted anywhere near the same attention as did Cuban president Fidel Castro. Tens of thousands of working people and youth, who gathered on the Botha lawns of Pretoria's Union Buildings for the ceremonies, cheered Castro's arrival. Hundreds of thousands more, who watched the events on television, held animated discussions about the Cuban leader's presence for days after the inauguration.

Cuba's role in southern Africa is well-known throughout this country. For decades, the leadership of the Cuban

Continued on Page 9



Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela at South Africa's presidential inauguration May 10

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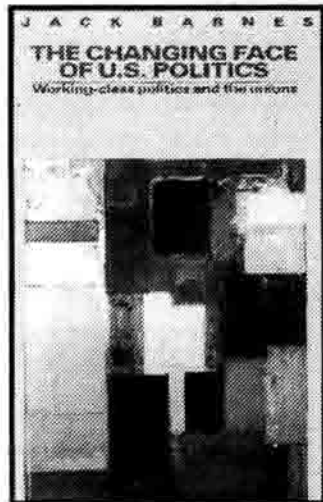
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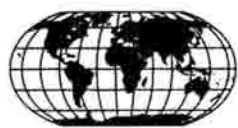
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## Germany: Workers battle anti-immigrant rightists

In Magdeburg, Germany, a group of waiters at a cafe owned by immigrants from Turkey grabbed knives to defend five African refugees who fled into the establishment. A gang of 30 right-wing thugs chased the refugees during six hours of street violence in this eastern German town May 12. The rightist assailants trashed the parlor, smashed its windows, and terrorized patrons as they shouted, "Germany for the Germans! Foreigners Out!" A government official called the violence a "horrifying high point" and compared the incident to the pogroms of the brown-shirted storm troops of Hitler. The police arrested 49 people, but only one is under investigation — a Turkish waiter who battled the rightists.

## Chernobyl hunger strike

April 25 was the eighth anniversary of the nuclear explosion at the Chernobyl power plant in Pripjat, Ukraine. Residents of nearby Vologoda, Russia, who took part in the cleanup of the disaster area after the meltdown, marked the date by launching a hunger strike to demand that Moscow increase their pensions.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians from the former Soviet Union took part in the cleanup, incurring infirmities as a result of their work. Estimates of deaths as a result of cancer and other diseases of these workers and residents of contaminated areas of Ukraine and neighboring Belarus, which took the brunt of the wind-swept radioactive fallout, range into the thousands.

Two weeks earlier, hundreds of Russian nuclear plant workers protested mounting hazards at eight of the country's biggest reactors. "I just paid [the workers] back wages for January," stated Gennadi Shchapov, director of the Kalinsky plant in central Russia. "The workers are in a very bad mood and, God forbid, something might happen." There are 11 Chernobyl-type reactors still operating in Russia, along with two in Lithuania. In March, the Russian Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety



Palestinian police enter Jericho May 13. They will join Israeli soldiers on joint patrols of the area.

Oversight Committee reported 20,000 safety violations in nuclear plants for 1993.

## Israeli troops pull out of Jericho

The Israeli government May 13 pulled its last troops out of Jericho and nearby areas in the West Bank. The following day they withdrew from the Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. While an autonomous district of 24 square miles has been formed around the town of Jericho, some Israeli soldiers are permitted under the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organization agreement to patrol the roads with Palestinian officers. But confrontations in the occupied territories are continuing. Israeli settlers and soldiers shot and wounded 19 Palestinians in the West Bank town of Hebron on May 16.

U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher said May 15 he would travel to Jericho soon. U.S. officials were quick to reassure the Israeli regime that the visit did not indicate Washington would change its long-standing opposition to a Palestinian state. "Our position on a Palestinian state has not changed," said one U.S. official. "We do not support the establishment of a Palestinian state."

## North Yemen army targets Aden

North Yemen army units have mounted an assault to capture Aden, a city of 350,000 and the former capital of South Yemen. Aden is the stronghold of the southern forces, accused by the government of rebellion. "The cost of this advance is heavy," said one minister. "For every kilometer the north advances, there are thousands of dead and wounded."

The regime based in the north has rejected attempts by its rivals in the southern part of the country to arrange a cease-fire and open a dialogue. Meanwhile, more than 400 Somali refugees were killed on May 4 when their camp on the southern coast of Yemen was caught in the cross fire between the two sides.

## India opposes nuclear arms freeze

The government of India is resisting a U.S. proposal to freeze its nuclear weapons program in return for a similar cap on Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. Indian army officials are planning to deploy 80 Prithvi missiles close to the border with Pakistan.

The missiles are said to have a range of 90 miles and are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The regimes of India and Pakistan have been embroiled in a conflict over control of the region of Kashmir. Officials from Washington have expressed concern that the conflict could trigger a nuclear war between the two countries.

## Clinton returns refugees to Haiti

A U.S. Coast Guard cutter sent back 277 Haitians May 13, in the first forced repatriation since President Bill Clinton decided to slightly alter U.S. policy toward Haitian refugees. The military-backed port authorities refused entry to reporters and U.S. television crews to witness the repatriation. In the eight days since Clinton's May 8 announcement that Haitian refugees would be given interviews on vessels at sea, Washington has stopped and sent back 618 Haitians fleeing

the terror of the military regime — without even providing hearings on their requests for asylum. More than 43,000 Haitians have been intercepted at sea by the Coast Guard since the coup that overthrew elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

## Florida's culture war

In mid-May, Florida's Lake County school board approved by a 3-2 vote a policy that will require the county's 22,526 students to be taught that American culture is inherently "superior to other foreign or historic cultures."

Judy Pearson, a school board member who belongs to the Christian Coalition, a group founded by ultraconservative Pat Robertson, said, "We need to reinforce that we should be teaching America first" because young people "if they felt our land was inferior or equal to others would have no motivation to go to war and defend our country."

Members of the local teachers union are protesting the policy, which they say is jingoistic and probably illegal. They have filed an appeal to the state department of education, and a court challenge appears likely.

## Democrats seek huge benefits cuts

The Mainstream Forum, a group of moderate and conservative Democrats in the House of Representatives, has drafted legislation to eliminate Medicaid, Aid for Families With Dependent Children, food stamps, and supplemental security income for most newly arrived immigrants. The bill, which was scheduled to be introduced in the House May 11, is similar to measures supported by House and Senate Republicans. The proposals also includes establishing a two-year limit for benefits and a plan to restrict to three years the period in which former welfare recipients could qualify for community service jobs after their welfare payments end.

## U.S. Federal Reserve raises rates

The Federal Reserve raised short-term interest rates by half a percentage point May 17, the sharpest increase in five years. The bank said it was acting to calm perceptions among the owners of capital that inflation is on the horizon and to shore up the value of the dollar against other currencies. Commercial banks responded by announcing similar raises in prime lending rates, the chief rate by which many borrow money to finance small business investments, home purchases, and other expenses.

Wall Street's initial reaction sent stocks up by nearly 50 points, while some Democratic Party politicians and businessmen said the move could stall growth in the economy. — MAURICE WILLIAMS

Jon Hillson, a member of the United Transportation Union in Minneapolis, contributed to this column.

## THE MILITANT

### Fight police brutality

From Auckland, New Zealand, to Staten Island, New York, cops use their billy clubs and guns, with increasing violence, to punish workers. They do it to protect and serve the rights and property of the wealthy capitalist families who rule. But more and more youth and working people rebel against police brutality and demand justice. Read about it every week in the 'Militant.' Don't miss a single issue!



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## The Militant

Vol. 58/No. 21

Closing news date: May 18, 1994

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Published weekly except for one week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311,2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant

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Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. Latin America,

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# Capitalist reforms falter in Hungary

BY PAT SMITH

Reeling from a deep economic crisis, workers in Hungary voted the ruling coalition out of office May 8. The ousted Hungarian Democratic Forum was the only elected government in Eastern Europe to survive a full term since the fall of Stalinist regimes in the region began almost five years ago.

The Hungarian Socialist Party, formerly the ruling Communist Party, won the first round of voting with 32 percent, and the Alliance of Free Democrats won 20 percent of the vote. All three parties support the integration of Hungary's economy into the world capitalist market, although the socialist party says it is for more gradual reforms and the Alliance of Free Democrats supports more rapid integration.

The Socialists received only 11 percent of votes in the 1990 national elections. "We get our support from the fact that most people have had it up to here," said Viktor Polgar, head of the Socialists' campaign in

Budapest, explaining the party's victory.

Living standards for most pensioners and state employees have fallen over the past four years. The government's privatization efforts have meant massive layoffs. Fifteen percent of workers are unemployed. While this is lower than in Poland and eastern Germany, it is significantly higher than in the Czech Republic. Farm production fell by 40 percent last year alone. Inflation is 20 percent and rising. In a recent poll, only 18 percent of people in Hungary said they were better off than before the so-called market reforms began. This is fewer than in any other Eastern European country except Russia.

"Now there is no safety net," said Janos Plyevsky, a car mechanic. "There are terrible layoffs. They turn off the electricity if people can't pay."

Karoly Demeter, a 51-year-old skilled metalworker in Budapest, has seen the workforce at his factory shrink from 500 to 30 since 1990. He expects to be laid off when the new owners level the building to

make room for a supermarket.

Hungary was the most prosperous and developed of the Soviet-Bloc nations. In the months and years after workers there brought down the Stalinist regime in 1989, capitalist investors rushed in from Europe, the United States, and other countries, expecting to make easy money. Since then, investors from abroad have pumped \$7 billion in direct investments into the country of 10 million people.

## Investors disillusioned

But now they are becoming disillusioned. "They expected Hungary, as the most developed of the Eastern European countries, to go through the changes in three years," Laszlo Lengyel, chairman of the Hungarian investment advisory company Financial Research, said. "Instead we're in the fourth year, and there is negative growth, and we can't really see how it will stabilize." Investments would have dropped by nearly half last year if not for the selloff of 49 percent

of the state telecommunications system to U.S. and German investors.

Many workers in Hungary also say the "market miracle" is not what they expected. Instead of building new factories to produce goods for export, creating jobs in the process, as many expected, investors came to Hungary seeking markets for products manufactured in other countries.

When Austrian companies, for example, bought up state-owned retail businesses, they pushed Hungarian goods out and increased prices for their better-made imports. Now, working people complain they cannot afford food at the Austrian owned supermarket or clothes imported from Austria.

A German steel company purchased an old mill with 14,000 employees in Ozd in 1990. The venture failed within a year sending more than 12,000 workers onto the street. Those who remain are processing scrap steel.

"The Germans shut down the furnaces [and] didn't do anything for us," said Laszlo Nagy, 44, who had worked at the plant for 25 years. A job retraining center in Ozd, funded by the World Bank, tries to place unemployed workers in a handful of small, low-paying textile plants set up by Italian and Belgian companies.

Hungary's combined domestic and foreign debt has increased to 80 percent of gross national product. The recession in western Europe also contributed to a 25 percent drop in exports, resulting in a \$3-billion negative trade balance.

And the government has had trouble selling off shares in state-owned industries. So far, there are far more enterprises on the auction block than interested buyers.

The privileged middle-class layers in the bureaucratic apparatuses of the former Stalinist-run government, trade unions, and Communist Party cashed in early by grabbing positions in some of the most promising enterprises. A couple years ago the government decided to hold back on selling off 160 of the more profitable industries to earn some money for the state's empty coffers. These included most utilities, transportation, and other services.

However, this did not bring in the kind of money the government had expected and left only the oldest and least productive factories and mills on the market. Most of these have not been sold.

As much as 30 percent of the country's workforce is still employed at these enterprises, which are being kept afloat with state funds.

The stock market in Budapest, the first set up in Eastern Europe, has been the least expansive in the region. Early investors suffered substantial paper losses and several shares remain below 1992 levels in real terms in spite of the 50 percent rise in the market in December 1993.

## UN votes to send troops to Rwanda

BY SARA LOBMAN

The United Nations Security Council voted to send 5,000 troops to Rwanda and to impose a total arms embargo on the country on May 17.

The proposed force would include a rapid deployment unit, armored personnel carriers, and 16 helicopters. The troops would be authorized to provide "security and protection" for civilians and relief workers. Under the plan debated in the Security Council May 13, the force would invade Rwanda by land and attempt to establish "secure areas" along the border. It would then work its way deeper into the country. The UN secretary general would also be authorized to send additional troops into the capital city of Kigali by air. The so-called peacekeeping units would be permitted to use force.

According to the Security Council agreement, the soldiers who are to make up the UN force will come entirely from countries in Africa. However, to date, none of the African governments have agreed to contribute troops.

The Security Council was expected to give formal approval to the plan on May 16. But at the last minute the U.S. government intervened and demanded the council accept a scaled-down version of the proposal. Under the UN plan, intervention would begin with a battalion of 850 soldiers from Ghana, equipped with armored vehicles. These troops would take control of the airport in Kigali. At the same time, the Security Council would send 150 military "observers" into the country. According to the *New York Times*, the larger 5,500-strong force would be deployed after the UN secretary general reports "progress toward winning the consent of the warring parties and toward a cease-fire."

### Emergency session

The UN Human Rights Commission announced it will hold an emergency session on Rwanda later in May. This would be the third emergency session in the commission's 48-year history. The other two were in 1992 to discuss the war in the former Yugoslavia.

More than 200,000 people have been slaughtered in fighting in the central African country since the presidents of Rwanda and neighboring Burundi were killed April 6 when their plane was hit by gunfire. Another 1.5 million have been forced from their homes. An additional 60,000 people were reported to be fleeing Kigali May 16 as troops from the Rwandan Patriotic Front, an opposition group fighting for control of the government, closed in on the city.

Government forces are responsible for many of the deaths, both of political opponents and their families, and random killings of members of the minority Tutsi tribe. Since Rwanda became independent in 1962, most government positions, including the presidency, have been held by local capitalists who are members of the majority Hutu tribe.

### Protest in Montreal

On May 6, 150 people, mainly from Rwanda, gathered in Montreal to protest the violence in the African country. Rally organizer Jean-Paul Kimonyo accused forces in



These children are among 250,000 refugees who fled Rwanda to escape fighting

the Rwandan government of trying to stop the democratization of the country by killing off the entire opposition and then trying to incite tribal divisions.

One protester, Guillaume Murere, who is a supporter of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, refused to say whether he was a Hutu or a Tutsi. He pointed out that both groups share

the same religion, culture, language, and geographic space. Occasionally, members of the two tribes can be distinguished by their height and a few other features. "Should people in a modern society be categorized according to such frivolous grounds as their height and the length of their fingers?" Murere asked. "I don't think so."

## Packinghouse worker joins 'Militant' staff

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

With this issue, Maurice Williams joins the *Militant* staff. Until last October, Williams worked at the Monfort packinghouse in Marshalltown, Iowa, pulling lard off hogs. In the last few months Williams operated a web press in the Pathfinder printshop in New York.

As a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers in Iowa, he participated in several struggles of meatpacking workers in the Midwest for better working conditions and wages and reported about them for the *Militant*. During his nearly three-year stay in Iowa, Williams ran as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines city council.

He frequently contributed articles to the *Militant* about the fight for justice of Mark Curtis, a fellow meatpacker who was framed up by the Des Moines, Iowa, police for his union and political activities.

Before moving to Iowa, Williams lived in Cleveland where he worked as a machine operator at an LTV steel factory and was a member of the United Steelworkers of America. From there he wrote about sit-ins by students at Cleveland State University protesting the racist firing of a school administrator who is Black.

Williams, 37, has in fact a long history of participation in struggles for Black rights. In the early 1980s, for example, he took part in protests in Waynesboro, Georgia, against

the death in police custody of Larry Gardner, a Black man. He wrote about this fight in the pages of the *Militant*.

In 1984 Williams, like thousands of other young workers and students, participated in a solidarity work brigade to revolutionary Nicaragua. He brought back this experience to

fellow workers in the auto plant in Atlanta, where he worked. He also spoke out against Washington's attempts to strangle the Nicaraguan revolution as a Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Georgia at the time.

His trade union and political experience will be a valuable addition to the staff.



New *Militant* staff writer Maurice Williams

Militant/Hilda Cuzco



## Sales drive a smashing success!

Continued from front page  
Mundial.

In addition, nearly 2,000 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International* are in the hands of new readers, helping them to delve deeper into the politics and continuity of the workers movement.

The outstanding coverage of the developments in South Africa by the *Militant* reporting team there helped make it possible for distributors to sell 20 percent of the total goals in the last week of the sales drive.

Around the world, workers and young people watched with interest and enthusiasm the joyous celebrations of the first democratic elections in South Africa and the inauguration of the African National Congress-led government. Many decided to buy a subscription to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* — from a coworker on the job, at a campus sales table, or at election celebrations held in many cities — in order to follow the next stage of the democratic revolution unfolding there. Young people in Sweden have already asked *Militant* reporter Maria Hamberg to speak about her trip to South Africa.

### Upturn in labor fights

An upturn in labor battles has also generated considerable interest in the socialist press among workers who, in the course of their fights against the employers, begin to look for others to link up with. Distributors made a special effort to get to the picket lines and plant gates to report these workers' stories, offer solidarity, and help them learn of other struggles through the pages of the *Militant*.

Hundreds of United Auto Workers (UAW) members battling Caterpillar Inc. have purchased copies of the *Militant* from distributors at their plant gates, and several subscribed.

Over the course of the sales drive, *Militant* readers went to Teamster picket lines, visited striking steelworkers at Allegheny Ludlum, backed corn syrup processors locked out by A.E. Staley in Decatur, Illinois, and joined workers in many other struggles.

Supporters of the international circulation campaign joined public workers in Canada demanding a decent standard of living. Salespeople were present at strike-vote meetings



Militant/Colin McKay  
Four students bought *Militant* subscriptions at Cole Harbour Senior Secondary School, pictured above in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

and demonstrations organized to protest cuts in the new provincial budgets. Distributors from Montreal sold 20 *Militant* subscriptions and one *New International* in a week of sales in the Atlantic provinces where workers have been hit hard by budget cuts.

Nearly 700 members of industrial trade unions around the world bought subscriptions to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* during the drive. Many of these were sold by *Militant* supporters to their coworkers, as well as at plant gates, union rallies, and other events. Unionists bought the paper not only to read about labor struggles but also to learn about world politics. Ken Riley, a reader who works in a garment warehouse in Los Angeles, said coworkers from El Salvador were extremely interested in the South African election. Several subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Young socialists in many cities got in on the sales campaign as an opportunity to reach out to other young people with communist politics. Cleveland Student Political Organizing Committee members helped sell the *Militant* during a two-day tour of ANC member Kevin Naidoo, for instance.

Readers from New York and New Jersey sold close to 30 *Militant* subscriptions at rallies to protest the police murder of Ernest Sayon and in the working-class

community where he was killed in Staten Island, New York. Members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee rushed to join a spontaneous protest that broke out hours after Sayon's death.

Significant strides were made in this campaign to win new readers to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Five subscriptions and seven copies of the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional* were sold by a distributor in Puerto Rico.

Salespeople in Des Moines, Iowa, sold more than 15 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions to packinghouse workers in just the last two weeks of the drive.

Distributors in Miami traveled to Immokalee, Florida, a town of predominantly Haitian, Mexican, Guatemalan, and Puerto Rican farmworkers. The workers bought 11 copies of the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale* along with two *Militant* subscriptions. Several farmworkers wanted to know about the Young Socialists in Miami.

A Guatemalan man who does not know how to read bought a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial*. "This really sounds interesting," he said. "I'm going to find someone to read this to me."

The *Militant* staff thanks our readers for their extraordinary efforts and urges them to continue getting the paper around as broadly as possible.

## WHERE WE STAND end of drive

**104% SOLD** 3,131 **100% SHOULD BE** 3,000

	THE MILITANT		Perspectiva Mundial		NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD/GOAL	%	SOLD/GOAL	%	SOLD/GOAL	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	34	25	136%	13	8	33
<b>BRITAIN</b>						
Manchester	60	50	120%	3	5	35
Sheffield	38	35	109%	1	2	22
London	65	60	108%	3	2	58
<b>Britain Total</b>	163	145	112%	7	9	115
<b>CANADA</b>						
Vancouver	81	75	108%	13	10	43
Toronto	83	80	104%	17	15	55
Montreal	75	75	100%	23	20	74
<b>Canada Total</b>	239	230	104%	53	45	172
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>						
Christchurch	47	45	104%	2	2	22
Auckland*	93	90	103%	6	6	47
<b>N.Z. Total</b>	140	135	104%	8	8	69
<b>SWEDEN</b>	41	40	103%	24	18	32
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
Albuquerque, NM	7	5	140%	2	1	3
Albany, NY	6	5	120%	1	1	4
Greensboro, NC	60	50	120%	4	5	24
Salt Lake, UT	103	90	114%	16	15	55
Houston*	78	70	111%	13	12	29
St. Louis	77	70	110%	6	8	35
Atlanta*	98	90	109%	14	13	39
Miami	129	120	108%	55	50	110
Twin Cities, MN	119	110	108%	17	17	70
Cleveland	91	85	107%	16	10	30
Los Angeles	214	200	107%	101	95	170
Birmingham, AL*	87	82	106%	5	5	35
Chicago	137	130	105%	32	30	77
Washington, D.C.	79	75	105%	30	25	50
Detroit	94	90	104%	11	10	43
Morgantown, WV	52	50	104%	1	2	27
San Francisco	141	135	104%	42	40	109
New York	138	135	102%	30	35	111
Des Moines, IA	81	80	101%	36	35	55
Philadelphia	116	115	101%	30	30	74
Boston	120	120	100%	36	40	82
New Haven, CT	15	15	100%	2	3	12
Newark, NJ	130	130	100%	35	35	75
Pittsburgh	100	100	100%	12	10	41
Seattle	75	75	100%	12	12	36
Brooklyn	103	130	79%	36	35	104
Cincinnati, OH	11	15	73%	5	2	6
Edinboro, PA	6	10	60%	1	0	5
Denver	5	10	50%	3	2	3
Portland, OR	2	6	33%	0	0	0
<b>U.S. Total</b>	2,474	2,398	103%	604	578	1,514
<b>GREECE</b>	10	10	100%	1	1	7
<b>ICELAND</b>	12	12	100%	1	1	7
<b>IRAN</b>	6	6	100%	0	—	10
<b>BELGIUM</b>	2	3	67%	2	4	2
<b>GERMANY</b>	6	10	60%	5	4	18
<b>FRANCE</b>	4	10	40%	5	2	9
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	0	2	0%	5	8	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,131	3,026	104%	728	686	1,995
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	3,000	3,000	100%	650	650	1,800

IN THE UNIONS						
UNITED STATES						
ILGWU	17	12	142%	20	24	3
UMWA	26	20	130%	0	—	3
ACTWU	27	23	117%	12	8	4
IAM	90	80	113%	12	15	13
UTU	75	72	104%	7	3	9
USWA	71	70	101%	4	8	15
OCAW	64	70	91%	1	5	9
UAW	105	125	84%	8	10	17
UFCW	29	35	83%	25	20	8
<b>U.S. Total</b>	504	507	99%	88	93	81
<b>BRITAIN</b>						
TGWU	8	7	114%	0	—	1
RMT	19	20	95%	1	—	2
AEEU	3	5	60%	0	—	0
NUM	1	—	—	0	—	0
<b>Britain Total</b>	31	32	97%	1	—	3
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>						
MWU	4	4	100%	0	—	1
UFBGWU	5	6	83%	0	—	2
EU	6	9	67%	1	—	2
<b>N.Z. Total</b>	15	19	79%	1	—	5
<b>CANADA</b>						
CAW	8	9	89%	4	5	4
IAM	13	19	68%	3	2	3
ACTWU	2	4	50%	1	2	2
USWA	5	11	45%	2	2	10
<b>Canada Total</b>	28	43	65%	10	11	19
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>						
FPU	2	2	100%	0	—	0
AFMEU	1	4	25%	0	—	2
NUW	0	2	0%	0	—	0
<b>Australia Total</b>	3	8	38%	0	—	2
<b>SWEDEN</b>						
Food Workers	2	3	67%	1	—	1
Metal Workers	0	1	0%	2	2	1
Trans. Workers	0	2	0%	0	—	0
<b>Sweden Total</b>	2	6	33%	2	2	2

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AFMEU — Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; FPU — Food Preservers' Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; NUW — National Union of Workers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

## Panama holds first presidential election since 1989 U.S. invasion

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Ernesto Pérez Balladares, candidate of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), won Panama's May 8 presidential elections.

The elections were the first since U.S. troops invaded and bombed the country in December 1989. Washington's goal was to establish a government in Panama that was completely under its control. Thousands of Panamanians were killed before U.S. officials seized Gen. Manuel Noriega, the head of state, and flew him to Miami where they tried him for drug trafficking-related charges. Noriega is currently serving a 40-year sentence in a U.S. prison.

Following the invasion, Washington installed Guillermo Endara as president, even holding the inauguration ceremony on a U.S. military base. In the four and a half years since the U.S. invasion, however, the Endara regime has been completely discredited. Charges of corruption, drug trafficking, and nepotism, as well as factional infighting among government officials, have been rampant.

Unemployment is more than 14 percent and the public health care system is in disarray.

While Balladares tries to distance himself from Noriega, who was also a member of the PRD, he embraces the mantle of Gen. Omar Torrijos, who remains popular among many Panamanian working people. Torrijos, who headed the country from 1968 to 1981, initiated some popular reforms. This included some limited land distribution to poor peasants and efforts to build more schools and new roads. Most importantly in the eyes of many Panamanians, Torrijos negotiated the treaty that relinquishes U.S. control of the Panama Canal to Panama by the year 2000.

During his campaign, Balladares promised a broad attack on poverty and a break from the strong-arm tactics of past governments.

The attempt by Balladares, a millionaire businessman, to adopt the populist image of Torrijos is a reflection of the polarization and ferment developing among Panamanian

workers and farmers today. Actor and salsa singer Rubén Blades, who was one of six other candidates in the presidential campaign, also tried to appeal to this sentiment. His party, Papa Egoró (Mother Earth in a local Indian dialect), called for popular participation and improving people's self-esteem, but offered no concrete proposal to respond to the economic crisis.

With Endara's failure, Washington had no clear choice in the elections. The U.S. rulers are hoping for the best with Balladares, but are concerned about the instability his government may bring. The transfer of control of the Panama Canal is scheduled to occur during his regime. An article in the *Washington Post* following the elections stated, "Whether Balladares presides over a new Panama — rather than a restoration of the old Noriega-era order — is one of the most pressing foreign policy concerns for the United States in the Western hemisphere due the impending transfer of the Panama Canal in 2000."



# Reaching out to new readers can net funds

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Supporters of the *Militant* newspaper around the world have an important opportunity to use the resounding success of the international circulation campaign to drive forward on the New International Fund.

As we go to press the fund has received \$17,605, well behind the \$40,000 we should have in hand to be on target. But by contacting each of the thousands of workers, youth, and others who purchased copies of *New International* or subscriptions to the other socialist publications over the past 10 weeks, *Militant* distributors can play a crucial role in winning broad new support for the \$100,000 fund. The drive ends June 28 — only five weeks from now.

In many areas, fund supporters have organized special meetings to discuss the political issues contained in the pages of the Marxist magazine and raise money for the fund.

Greg McCartan reports that 35 people attended a meeting to celebrate the publication of *New International* no. 9 titled "The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution," held at the Pathfinder bookstore in Washington, D.C., May 14. Participants pledged \$665 toward the fund after hearing about work under way to publish 10 new issues of the magazine in English, French, Spanish and Swedish.

"For anyone who wants some meaty material on the central issues of the Nicaraguan revolution, I encourage you to read *New International*," said Leslie Salgado, coordinator of the Howard County Friends of Central America and the Caribbean.

Hilborne Watson, professor of political science at Howard University and president of the Caribbean Studies Association, also spoke at the event. The evolution of world politics and the international economic crisis of capitalism, he said, "provides the basis for the internationalization of the struggle for socialism as never before."

Salgado said the economic, political, and military assault by Washington devastated Nicaragua, making the deepening of the revolution nearly impossible and causing the

electoral defeat of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). But, she said, fighters should reject the idea that capitalism offers a road forward for humanity.

Emily Fitzsimmons, a member of the International Association of Machinists and the Socialist Workers Party, pointed to the article in the new magazine that details the victory of the workers and peasants over the U.S.-organized contra war and the possibilities for mobilizing the population to deepen the anticapitalist course of the revolution. The rejection of this course by the FSLN leadership, she said, "led to the demobilization of the masses and the overturn of the workers and peasants government." But the defeat of the revolution was not inevitable.

Two students from Newark, Delaware, drove two hours to attend the meeting.

Scott Breen reports that the *New International* Fund took a step forward in Seattle last week. A talk there by Harvey McArthur, who reported for the *Militant* from Nicaragua in the 1980s, drew 25 people. They pledged \$2,755 for the fund. A member of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union who has read *New International* since the first issue appeared in 1983, pledged \$200. In addition to McArthur, the platform included Patrick Buckley, a young worker who recently joined the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee.

Philadelphia fund supporters lead the pack in the amount collected. They have turned in \$5,777 toward their goal of \$7,500. Jon Teitelbaum reports that they got the fund rolling there with a meeting several weeks ago. Fund supporter Pete Seidman is organizing a 200-piece mailing to raise additional funds this week. Contributions include \$720 from two retired workers and a donation from a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union from Shippenburg, Pennsylvania, who was on strike against the Greif Company last year.

If you would like to make a contribution to the New International Fund, please fill out the coupon attached to the chart on this page.

## New International FUND

	Goal	Collected	Percent
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
Philadelphia	7,500	5,777	77%
Des Moines	3,000	1,160	39%
New York	4,750	1,834	39%
Detroit	3,900	1,450	37%
Twin Cities	5,000	1,747	35%
Pittsburgh	3,500	951	27%
St. Louis	3,000	625	21%
Chicago	5,250	650	12%
San Francisco	8,000	895	11%
Miami	2,700	284	11%
Washington, D.C.	2,800	210	8%
Morgantown	1,300	75	6%
Seattle	4,100	200	5%
Birmingham	2,500	100	4%
Newark	5,500	75	1%
Cleveland	3,000	30	1%
Los Angeles	6,750	20	0%
Salt Lake City	4,000	2	0%
Atlanta	3,250		0%
Boston	4,000		0%
Brooklyn	3,250		0%
Greensboro	1,500		0%
Houston	3,200		0%
New Haven	500		0%
Portland		1,150	
Other		335	
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>92,250</b>	<b>17,570</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>375</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>			
Manchester	600		0%
London	1,050		0%
Sheffield	600		0%
<b>Britain total</b>	<b>2,250</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>300</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>			
Auckland	500		0%
Christchurch	250		0%
<b>N.Z. Total</b>	<b>750</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>INT'L TOTAL</b>	<b>99,525</b>	<b>17,605</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>40%</b>

**Contribute to \$100,000 Fund for Marxist Magazine**

*New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, has launched a \$100,000 fund to print a series of new issues of the journal, which will appear in English, Spanish, French, and Swedish.

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# San Diego teacher fights censorship, dismissal

BY HARRY RING

LA MESA, California — Nearly 150 people turned out for a school board meeting in this San Diego suburb, most of them demanding the reinstatement of Reiko Obata, a high school teacher in neighboring Santee.

Obata, a Japanese American, was summarily dismissed after she tried to arrange a classroom showing of the 1981 film *Zoot Suit*, a fact-based musical drama about the racist victimization of Los Angeles Chicanos during World War II.

More than 200 Santana High School students have signed a petition calling for Obata's reinstatement and for the showing of *Zoot Suit*.

The student body is about 82 percent white. Obata was one of three nonwhites in a faculty of about 100.

Some two dozen students and many parents came to the May 13 school board meeting. Several of the students spoke briefly, voicing their respect for Obata and their belief that the film should be shown. A number of parents called on the board to reverse what had been done.

Addressing the asserted concern of school officials over the single profanity in the film, one speaker demanded of the board, "Is ignorance and racism less offensive? Which is worse, a few bad words or racism?"

Jorge Huerta, a Chicano professor of theater at the University of California, San Diego, angrily declared, "We have been ignored long enough. Why shouldn't *Zoot Suit* be seen? It's an historically accurate picture of discrimination against our people."

Karen Tani, president of the San Diego chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, demanded that the board reinstate Obata with a formal apology, and that *Zoot Suit* be shown to the entire student body as a case study in racism.

Joining the protest was Abel Macias, an official of the San Diego State University Chicano student organization, MEChA.



California high school teacher Reiko Obata was fired for trying to show *Zoot Suit* film.

Obata, limited like the other speakers to three minutes, said she was "overwhelmed by the outpouring of support" she has received, which includes letters and phone calls "from all over the country."

She expressed particular appreciation for the student support. "It takes a lot of guts for students to come here and speak before a crowd," she declared, "and I salute them for it."

She called on the board to reinstate her "to rectify the wrong that's been committed."

Among the speakers on her behalf was Alice McGrath, who explained that 50 years ago she had been executive secretary of the committee that defended 22 Chicano youth in the frame-up that became popularly known as the Sleepy Lagoon case.

*Zoot Suit*, initially a play and then a film,

is based on this case in which Los Angeles officials joined in whipping up a Chicano-bashing drive by railroading the youth on a trumped-up murder conspiracy charge.

Accompanied by nakedly racist media coverage, the trial was so grossly unjust that an appeals court later threw out the convictions.

A year after the trial came the "zoot suit riots." The "riots" were, in fact, a racist rampage by cops, Navy seamen, and others who targeted Chicano youth wearing then popular "zoot suits" for bloody attacks.

Luis Valdez, who authored *Zoot Suit*, sent a message declaring, "I am appalled by the bigotry and censorship... and I applaud Reiko for having the courage and character to stand up to it. I support her every step of the way!"

Edward James Olmos, who is featured in

the film, joined in condemning the action.

Because the film is "R" rated, school regulations required that parental consent be obtained for the students to see it. Obata did so.

But Obata's department superior vetoed the showing with the claim that it included violence and offensive language. Obata took the matter to the school principal, then to the assistant superintendent of the district. Both upheld the ban.

## Dismissed for insubordination

They day after she met with the district official, Obata received a one-sentence notice that she was dismissed. She was told it had to do with "insubordination regarding the film."

At the school board meeting, President June Mott claimed that it would be illegal to discuss personnel matters at a public meeting since this would violate teachers' privacy. "This is not an issue of censorship," she asserted.

There are other issues," she added, "and we've explained, we can't discuss them, to protect our employees' privacy."

In a brief interview after the meeting, Obata responded, "If they have any reason for dismissing me other than I wanted to show *Zoot Suit*," she declared, "then they should put it in writing as I have requested since the day I was dismissed, and which I'm entitled to."

A number of the parents signed individual petitions to the school board and several added their own comments.

One said, "This sounds like a witch-hunt to me. Let a good teacher teach and spend some time on things that really matter."

Letters calling for the reinstatement of Obata and lifting the censorship of *Zoot Suit* should be addressed to Grossmont Union High School Governing Board, 1100 Murray Drive, El Cajon, California 92020. Copies should be sent to Reiko Obata, 4060 Moreno Blvd. No. G. 212, San Diego, California 92117.



# Havana conference with Cuban emigrés sparks Miami debate

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

MIAMI — In an attempt to make up for lost political space, rightist organizations have been waging a campaign of demonstrations, threats, and physical intimidation here against participants in the recent conference of Cuban emigrés in Havana.

The Cuban government sponsored the event over the April 23-24 weekend. More than 200 emigrants from 28 countries, the great majority from the United States, took part.

Despite coming under attack, some conference participants are taking every opportunity to defend the conference and speak out about its accomplishments.

Various right-wing organizations, such as the Cuban American National Foundation and the umbrella group Unidad Cubana (Cuban Unity), did their best to minimize the impact of the conference by campaigning against it, and against any potential participants, for two months prior to the meeting. Nonetheless the conference took place as planned.

During the weekend of the conference, a caravan of some 200 cars participated in a protest in the streets of Hialeah, Florida, against the meeting. Editorials, opinion articles, radio commentaries, and news reports called participants "puppets" and "traitors." But a few voices in support of the conference made the pages of some of the main daily and weekly newspapers and a *de facto* public debate took place leading up to the gathering. This fact in itself illustrates the continuing loosening of the grip of the right wing in the Cuban-American community.

On April 25, TV stations in Miami played 11 minutes of a video showing a number of the conference participants shaking hands and exchanging greetings with Cuban president Fidel Castro at a reception at the end of the meeting. Media commentators concentrated their attacks on the comments made by Cuban-American lawyer Magda Montiel-Davis from Miami, who is seen in the video greeting the Cuban president with a kiss on the cheek and thanking him for "everything you have done for my people." She also said Castro was "a great teacher" for her.

## Death threats

The day after the video aired, Montiel-Davis received death threats and a bomb threat was called into her office. On April 27 six of Montiel-Davis's employees quit, reportedly "shocked" at her exchange with

the Cuban president. Cuban American National Foundation president Jorge Mas Canosa promised immediate jobs to some of those who quit and some right-wingers handed cash to the resigning workers during a live radio show.

Participants at a demonstration against Montiel-Davis in front of her office attempted to attack her as she was leaving under police protection. Reportedly hundreds of people, including some of her neighbors, protested in front of Montiel-Davis's house the following Friday, calling her a "traitor."

Liberal voices in the media joined in the attacks. *Miami Herald* columnist Liz Balmaseda, a Cuban-American who has received awards and praise for her defense of free speech, joined the rightist chorus. She accused conference participants of "groveling" in front of the "dictator" to rubber stamp already made decisions of the Cuban government. None of Balmaseda's columns spoke in defense of free speech or in opposition to the violent intimidation that took place that week.

Montiel-Davis has spoken out against the U.S. government's embargo of Cuba, arguing that the market system and "democracy" would be easier to introduce in Cuba if relations were normalized. In an article published in the Cuban magazine *Bohemia* a few months ago she had made clear that she was not "Marxist-Leninist, nor a Castro supporter, nor even a sympathizer of the revolution."

Montiel-Davis was a founding member of the Cuban Committee for Democracy (CCD), a lobbying organization of upper-middle-class and wealthy Cuban-Americans who oppose the U.S. embargo against Cuba. They describe themselves as "anti-Castro" and "anticommunist." Montiel-Davis was asked to resign as treasurer of the CCD after the controversy around her remarks in Havana surfaced.

In an interview with Miami's Channel 10, Dagmaris Cavezas from New York City said, "We came [to Havana] because we believe in the importance of talking and trying to normalize relations with our country of birth, but we also understand that being photographed with a leader of the country can be a dangerous proposition," she said. "There have been people who were killed as a result of having come to Cuba during the 1978 dialogue," with Havana.

Other conference participants have had



Rightists demonstrate in Key Biscayne, Florida, in opposition to April 23-24 meeting hosted by Cuban gov't with Cubans living in United States and 27 other countries. Despite threats, many conference participants are defending its accomplishments.

their remarks published in the Spanish daily *Nuevo Herald* as well as in the *Miami Herald*. Some have agreed to speak on hostile radio shows and TV programs to discuss what actually happened at the meeting.

"The attacks against Montiel-Davis were the centerpiece of a broader campaign to limit free speech and avoid discussion on the discussions and decisions of the conference in Havana," said conference participant Elizardo Bascoy in a telephone interview. Bascoy is a leader of the Miami-based Antonio Maceo Brigade, which supports the Cuban revolution.

## Campaign to limit free speech

"The attacks against Montiel-Davis are a showcase of what right-wingers in Miami mean by democracy," he said. "Their objective is to draw attention away from the issues discussed in the conference. These are their old tactics of intimidation and fear against any person that thinks differently than them."

The conference represents "the first time since there has been a relationship between Cubans in Cuba and those abroad that the government started to develop a coherent policy based on very legitimate and important needs," declared Francisco González Aruca in a televised debate. Aruca is the owner of Marazul Charters and the only well-known radio commentator in Miami to oppose the U.S. embargo and advocate the normalization of relations. He promotes the idea of a "mixed economy" as the solution to the economic problems in Cuba.

"We came out of the conference with more than I expected," said Aruca. During the conference the Cuban government an-

nounced a number of changes, including reducing the waiting period before emigrants can visit their families from five years to one; ending the requirement that Cubans residing abroad stay in a hotel when they visit; allowing children of emigrants to study in Cuban universities; and setting up a special department for Cubans living abroad. These steps represent an "unprecedented achievement," Aruca said.

"Fidel Castro has to help write the next chapters of this long history of Cuba," said Cambio Cubano representative Patricia Gutiérrez in a press conference at Miami International Airport. Cambio Cubano (Cuban Change) is a self-described opponent of the Cuban government pursuing a "peaceful solution in Cuba." The group views the U.S. economic embargo as a potential bargaining chip with the Cuban government.

"How do you feel about shaking hands with the man that gave a 22 year prison sentence to your father?" asked a reporter.

"Entirely at ease," responded Gutiérrez. Her father, Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo, was convicted in Cuba for violent counterrevolutionary activity. He intervened in the discussion in defense of his daughter in response to a slew of hostile questions.

This trip was "a diplomatic mission," he said.

Commenting on the video of the reception with President Castro in Havana, Marcos Castellón, news program director for Radio Progreso in Miami, stated, "The video showed a minority of the conference participants, people who agree with the Cuban government 100 percent and who chanted 'viva Fidel' in Cuba. This didn't faze me at all because they do the same in the streets of Miami. And they have a right to do so."

"The Cuban government said it would invite people with diverse points of view to the conference," he continued, "including those who agreed with its perspective. But you cannot see in the segment of the video that was aired the diversity represented in the conference." Castellón has recently begun doing live news reports from Miami for Radio Rebelde in Havana.

## Diverse views presented

"The Cuban government put forward firm but respectful presentations of its views on the issues of migration, the economic crisis, the Cuban culture, and the functioning of people's power," Castellón said. "Although that was the stated agenda, people raised other questions in the discussion, such as amnesty for political prisoners, the question of human rights, the questions of multiple parties, and the question of political opposition in Cuba. Nobody in the conference was chastised for posing these questions," Castellón emphasized. "There was a deliberate effort on the part of conference organizers to avoid ideological sermons."

"Ironically," Castellón said, "Magda Montiel-Davis was one of the people posing this kind of question by asking about the executions [in the early 60s] from the floor of the conference."

"This was an exploratory conference, it wasn't a 'dialogue' per se," Castellón said. "It lays the foundation for future decisions."

Francisco Picado is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

# Dozens join Freedom to Travel trip to Cuba

BY NED MEASEL

SAN FRANCISCO — "The goal of the Freedom To Travel Campaign is to get the travel restrictions to Cuba completely lifted," explained Pam Montanaro in an interview at the campaign's offices here May 16. Montanaro is the coordinator of the Freedom to Travel Campaign, which is organizing its second trip to Cuba June 23-30.

So far, nearly 150 people have signed up to go, Montanaro said. Some 50 organizations have endorsed the effort. Washington greatly restricts travel from the United States to Cuba, completely prohibiting U.S. residents from spending money there. Only academics, journalists, and other professionals traveling in an official capacity are permitted to go. Cuban-Americans are also al-

lowed to travel to the Caribbean country to visit their families.

Participants on this trip, who will openly defy travel restrictions, range in age from 17 months to 90 years. There are many in their teens and twenties. "This time the UJC [Union of Young Communists] is setting up a special itinerary for young people," said Montanaro. "What we're hoping for is that there will be an equal number of Cuban youth and U.S. youth... It will include work projects, study, and play." The Union of Young Communists is one of the principal Cuban youth organizations. The trip will also include an exhibition baseball game and a U.S.-Cuba concert with the U.S. musicians coming from the Anti-Apartheid Network and the United Farm Workers movement.

When challengers returned from the first trip last October many were harassed by U.S. Customs, had their passports confiscated as evidence, and were threatened with prosecution. But no one has been prosecuted so far. Recently, the government returned the last passports it had confiscated. The campaign has prepared legal and media teams to assist on the way back and expose any harassment.

"We're ordinary citizens," said Montanaro, "we just want to get to know the world... get to know other people and make up our own mind about what is going on there and be in some kind of position to enter into the debate on U.S. foreign policy."

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# Clinic access act sparks free speech debate

BY PAT SMITH

The U.S. Senate approved May 12 the final version of legislation that levies federal prison terms and heavy fines against abortion rights opponents who conduct sit-ins and other acts of nonviolent civil disobedience.

Liberal politicians and many organizations that support a woman's right to choose abortion declared the passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) a victory. The nation risks a return "to the days of unsafe, back-alley abortions" unless federal law is invoked to protect clinics, Democratic senator Barbara Boxer of California said. "If doctors are driven away from providing the full range of reproductive health services to women, including abortion," she continued, "a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion if she so chooses will become meaningless."

Opponents of abortion rights are using the law to present themselves as victims of an attack on the First Amendment right to free speech. They say the demonstrators are being singled out with punishment far more severe than the \$100 fines and overnight jail stays such actions frequently carry and are therefore being punished for their beliefs, not their actions.

The bill exempts from punishment picketing, chanting, and passing out leaflets, but imposes prison terms of up to 18 months and fines as high as \$25,000 for other nonviolent offenses. Lawyers for the Clinton administration said the court's order was crafted solely to keep protesters from shutting down a legal business, and did not impede their right to demonstrate as they chose.

Various right-wing politicians and journalists attempted to wrap themselves in the mantle of the fight for Black rights and other struggles for justice in the debate over the measure. The bill would "outlaw sit-ins, the very tactic so central to the 1960s civil rights movement," said a May 16 *New York Post* editorial. The law also punishes modes of protest used "by opponents of the Vietnam War and by the anti-apartheid activists who focused international attention on South Africa."

"And it remains a key tactic of ACT UP in its battle on behalf of people with AIDS," the *Post* contended.

"Some day this is going to haunt you," argued New Hampshire senator Robert Smith, a Republican. "There's going to be another political issue that you're on the side of, and you're going to regret this vote."

Some of the bill's proponents have expressed reservations. "I support the act," said Tom Ross of the Coalition Against Clinic Violence and Harassment in Des Moines, Iowa.

"My only concern is that laws have a tendency to be used in ways they were not originally intended," he continued. "There are already adequate laws on the books to protect clinics if they were being enforced. There is the potential with this precedent to take away rights of workers, unionists, and others to demonstrate. But this law is very specific and hopefully that won't happen."

## Clinic injunctions

The rightists have also challenged a Florida injunction they say infringes on their First Amendment rights. In the near future the Supreme Court will rule on the constitutionality of an injunction that keeps protesters at least 12 yards from the Aware Woman Center for Choice in Melbourne, Florida, and establishes a 100-yard buffer zone in which demonstrators cannot confront clinic visitors "unless such person indicates a desire to communicate."

Abortion clinics around the country have obtained similar injunctions. Phyllis Erwin, an abortion rights activist in Melbourne, said she was happy the clinic access bill passed. "But there were two arrests last week and two yesterday [May 16] of Operation Rescue forces sitting down blocking the driveway," she said. "I'm worried about that" because Operation Rescue spokespeople have said that "they have every intention of blocking the clinic no matter what the FACE bill says."

"Your First Amendment rights do not include the right to block access to a place of business," said Kathy Patrick, a lawyer for the Melbourne clinic. Talbot D'Alemberte, who represents the clinic in this case, said the Supreme Court had used a comparable analysis three years ago to uphold restrictions in Tennessee that bar the distribution of campaign materials within 100 feet of a



Abortion rights activists defend Houston clinic during 1992 Republican National Convention. Under new act rightists must pay clinic more than \$1 million for disrupting business.

polling place. Similarly, in 1988 the court endorsed a Wisconsin ordinance prohibiting picketing "before or about the residence or dwelling of any individual."

Solicitor General Drew Days, who defended the Florida injunction on behalf of the Clinton administration, said during his arguments that courts had to be able to issue

orders of this type and to tailor them to the particular situation in each case.

On May 9 a state jury in Houston ordered the anti-choice groups Operation Rescue and Rescue America National and two of their leaders to pay \$1.01 million in punitive damages to a Planned Parenthood clinic. The rightists disrupted the clinic during the

## Iowa's 'Sexually Violent Predator Act' is a new menace to democratic rights

BY SHIRLEY PEÑA  
AND JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — An amendment to a juvenile crime bill entitled the Sexually Violent Predator Act, which was adopted by the Iowa legislature last month, has attracted recent media attention here. The new law represents a major assault on democratic rights.

The act states that 90 days prior to an inmate's release from prison, a prosecuting attorney may file a petition claiming the inmate is a "sexually violent predator" and should continue to be held behind bars until declared to be cured of his "mental abnormality or personality disorder."

On May 12, Governor Terry Branstad signed the bill into law. The "Sexual Predator" section of the bill goes into effect July 1, 1995.

Under the new law, the prosecutor's petition automatically triggers a special judicial hearing.

If the hearing upholds the petition, the prisoner is denied release and sent to a state medical prison facility to begin serving an indefinite sentence.

The definition of sexually violent predator in the law is "a person who has been convicted of or charged with a sexually violent offense and who suffers from a mental abnormality or personality disorder, which makes the person likely to engage in predatory acts of sexual violence."

The law lists numerous offenses that are to be considered "sexually violent crimes." They include domestic abuse assault, kidnapping, burglary, murder, as well as sexual abuse.

The author of the amendment, Rep. Rick Dickinson, claimed he was moved to action following a telephone conversation with a school teacher who witnessed a physical attack on a nine-year-old girl by a "repeat sex offender."

### 'Fighting crime' fraud

This amendment is part of a series of new laws adopted on both the state and federal level that target political rights in the name of "fighting crime."

Known as the juvenile justice act, this bill criminalizes and widens penalties for repeat instances of truancy and the purchase or attempted purchase of alcohol. The bill also removes a 24-hour notice requirement before school officials can physically search a student's locker.

The legislators also passed a law authorizing the construction of a new 750-bed prison in Clarinda, Iowa.

In the current state gubernatorial election campaign, each of the four major Democratic and Republican candidates has tried to portray themselves as the toughest on crime — with each coming out in favor of boot camps for juvenile offenders and more funding for prisons and cops. Republican candidate Fred Grandy has called for the abolition of parole for prisoners.

The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning estimates that as many as 1,005 individuals could be declared sexual predators under the new law.

The legislation states that following the filing of the petition the court could determine whether there was "probable cause" to support the prosecutor's move without any hearing. If the state agrees, the prisoner is transferred to a prison psychiatric facility for "evaluation" under "rules adopted by the department of corrections."

### Special trials

A special kind of trial is then convened. Held without any new criminal charges brought against the individual, this trial would decide if previously alleged criminal acts were, in fact, sexually motivated, and whether or not the individual has any psychiatric problems related to the charge.

These courts will also have the power to determine the guilt or innocence of any individual charged with a crime that was later dismissed due to their mental incompetence.

Those declared "sexually violent preda-

1992 Republican National Convention in Houston.

The jury found that the protesters had conspired to interfere with the clinic's business operations. Three days earlier, the jury had awarded the clinic \$204,000 in actual damages to cover the costs of escorts and heightened security measures.

Defenders of abortion rights challenged the constitutionality of a state-funded prenatal-care program that did not offer abortion services. New York's highest court ruled May 5 that the state government is not obligated to fund abortions for poor women even when deemed necessary by doctors. Last year the Prenatal Care Assistance Program served about 15,000 women who do not qualify for Medicaid because their income is slightly higher than the limit.

In other developments, women's rights supporters won a victory when a federal district court judge in Denver barred the state of Colorado from enforcing its restrictions on the use of public funds for abortions. On May 5 the judge said the federal law that requires state Medicaid programs to pay for abortions in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is in danger supercedes state restrictions on such funding. The decision applies only in Colorado, but similar suits are pending in Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. The governments of at least 10 other states besides Colorado have refused to comply with the federal law on funding abortions.

tors" would be sent to prison psychiatric facilities with strictly limited rights to appeal.

The law requires a new psychiatric review annually. If the state officials enforcing the law decide the inmate is no longer prone to "predatory acts," they can authorize the prisoner to petition the court for a hearing.

The law does allow a prisoner to petition for release without the authorization of the state. But the deck is stacked against inmates who choose to do so.

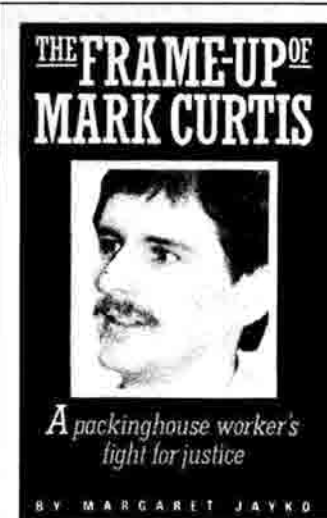
The court convenes a show cause hearing on the petition for release "but the person [petitioner] is not entitled to be present," states the law.

"If a person has previously filed a petition for discharge without the approval of the director," the bill continues, "and the court has determined . . . that the petitioner's petition was frivolous or that the petitioner's condition had not so changed . . . the court shall deny the subsequent petition."

In the state of Washington a similar law has been on the books for three years.

The April 14 *Des Moines Register* ran an editorial approving Washington's sexual predator law and urging passage of the Iowa bill. The paper called the bill a proposal "in the right direction" that "deserves a thorough airing and careful crafting to assure protection of the offenders' civil liberties."

Shirley Peña is a member of United Auto Workers Local 997 in Newton, Iowa. John Studer is a member of United Auto Workers Local 270 in Des Moines.



## The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis

A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice

by Margaret Jayko

The story of the frame-up of unionist and political activist Mark Curtis on rape and burglary charges. His real crime, in the authorities' eyes, is that he is part of a layer of young workers active in supporting the rights of immigrants, strengthening the unions, and campaigning against U.S. government intervention from Cuba to the Mideast. Booklet. \$5.00

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# 10,000 gold miners strike in South Africa

BY GREG ROSENBERG

CARLTONVILLE, South Africa — Nearly 10,000 gold miners struck the Kloof mine here, owned by the giant Gold Fields of South Africa (GFSa) conglomerate, from May 5 to 15. Workers unanimously decided to walk out after management unfairly fired Jackson Mafika, the branch chairman of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

"The persecution of Mr. Mafika is part of Gold Fields's well orchestrated campaign to eliminate the NUM from its mines," said a statement released by NUM press officer Jerry Majatladi. Mafika was fired for allegedly intimidating some employees, including a white manager, during a strike in March.

"That man was put there by the workers. We want him there," said Zachary Sele, an underground miner and member of the NUM branch committee.

Only hours before visiting this vast mine policed by uniformed company guards, GFSa issued an ultimatum to return to work by night shift on May 15 or face the threat of mass dismissals.

"Our position is that we are prepared to do everything management wants after they give us our demands and our leader back," said Mosito Matela.

At a May 15 meeting, national leaders of the NUM persuaded miners to return to work to avoid being fired. "Management agreed to speedy arbitration," said Majatladi. He also reported that the NUM will lead a march of all GFSa miners on May 20 in Johannesburg.

Miners here described the firing of Mafika as the last straw. For several months the NUM has waged a campaign against GFSa, which is one of the richest gold-mining companies in the world. The workers are fighting to win basic rights, safety, and an end to racist discrimination by a company notorious for its draconian practices throughout the rich mineral fields of this country. About three-quarters of a million people are employed in the mines throughout South Africa.

Workers at Kloof had set four minimum demands for their return to work. These are the reinstatement of Mafika; the punishment of an employee who shot a miner on May 4; the removal of Kloof's general manager, a notorious racist underground supervisor, and the medical station superintendent. "He is treating us like dogs," said Sele, referring to the manager.

Workers describe their fourth demand as one of the most pressing. That is the reduction and reorganization of what the company calls "acclimatization," or heat testing.

Miners here work at depths ranging from about 1.25 to 3.75 miles below the surface, where temperatures normally range from 95-100°F. The company subjects miners to heat tests at even higher temperatures, forcing workers to undergo punishing heat for four hours on each of five consecutive days. "We want that heat test reduced to 30 minutes on one day," said union member John



Members of National Union of Mineworkers at Kloof gold mine

Militant/Greg Rosenberg

Senene. "There are things done to Blacks here that aren't done to whites — like those heat tests."

The mine bosses won a court order declaring the strike illegal and commanding strikers back to work.

## Safety, political activity

"This company does not care about our safety," said Matela, describing another demand the unions are pressing. "People are put in hoists to go underground with gas cylinders, diesel fuel, and even explosives." NUM regional secretary Thabo Phamotse called Kloof "one of the highest killing mines in the region." Seven miners died here in one accident recently.

"Earlier this year, 150 people were trapped underground in a shaft," said Sele. "When they came out the Black miners weren't even examined by a doctor. The whites were sent to hotels to rest." Matela reported that GFSa excludes the union from investigations of on-site accidents.

All skilled jobs at Kloof are held by whites. The large majority of underground mine managers are also white. According to Phamotse, whites are given 42 days of sick leave each year. Blacks receive none.

Before this year's campaign by the NUM to democratize GFSa mines, the last strike at Kloof was in 1986. The NUM is demanding an end to the company-imposed organization of the hostels along tribal lines. "If one is a Zulu, they say he must be with other Zulus, Xhosa with Xhosa, Tswana with Tswana and so on," Senene said. "But here the workers are united."

About 7,000 miners have signed up with the NUM at this site, according to Sele. The United Mineworkers Organization of South Africa, whose leadership is politically aligned with the Inkatha Freedom Party, also organizes some workers at the mine. The NUM miners have worked to collaborate with fellow workers in other unions to keep a united front against company harassment, which has included attempts to incite workers of different

backgrounds to fight each other.

After a mass march to GFSa offices in February and a three-day strike in March, "management agreed to allow free political activity here," said Sele. "They said they would allow it but it hasn't started." Earlier this year a worker was fired for displaying an NUM poster.

## Role of new government

Workers here, a majority of whom support the African National Congress, see the new government as their own. "We're very proud of it," said Sele. "We think it will look to the needs of the people because we put it in place, we worked for it."

The members of the branch committee who were present said they were unanimous in their desire for the government to nationalize this particular mine.

Fred Lupingo, who has worked in the mine for 35 years, lost his arm two years ago when he was entangled in a conveyor belt. The company awarded him a lump sum of 6,500 rand (US\$1,857). He has never seen one penny of the money, while continuing to work at the mine. Lupingo said he was happy with the elections. "I didn't watch [Nelson Mandela's] inauguration on TV. I'm satisfied that I know what I did voting for our new president."

Lupingo comes from a town in the Eastern Cape province, and only visits his family once every 56 days when his contract runs out. Miners here hail from all parts of the country and others in southern Africa, working under the migrant labor system set up under apartheid rule.

"We want the system changed," said Sele. "We'd like our families to be able to come and live near here. And we want to get rid of the hostel system. The bad living conditions are hidden from the outside world."

Hospital Timbane, the vice-chair of the union branch, encouraged workers from the United States and other countries to come and help teach skills that have been denied to Blacks up until now.

"One of the things workers are interested in," he added, "is that we want schools so we can study here while we work. Most of us are illiterate, and we want to change that."

# Farmworkers in Natal demand own land

BY MARIA HAMBERG

IMPENDLE, South Africa — Here in Natal, South Africa's second most populous province, more than half the population lives in the countryside. The sprawling stretches of mountainous land contain few paved roads, mostly impoverished villages, and hardly any means of communication.

The situation facing working people in the province highlights the challenge facing the new African National Congress-led government in meeting the urgent tasks of eradicating apartheid's legacy and forging a nation.

Chief among these is the fight for land. At the 1955 Congress of the People, which adopted the Freedom Charter, one of the central demands incorporated by delegates into that document stated, "The land shall be shared among those who work it." Under apartheid rule, only 13.7 percent of the land — usually the most barren — was set aside for Africans, who comprise some three-quarters of the country's population.

In KwaZulu-Natal only 7 percent of the land is owned by Blacks. Another 2 percent is state land used by Black people communally. Commercial forestry covers 11 percent of the land. The province's land is dominated by four private companies — Sappi&Mondi, HL&H, Hans Merensky Holdings, and the South African Forestry Company Limited (SAFCOL), which has taken over state plantations.

Almost half the area used for commercial forest plantations is located in what used to be the KwaZulu Bantustan.

## Private farms

Some 80 percent of the farmland in KwaZulu-Natal is in private hands, consisting of 6,106 farming units. The main crops grown on these farms are sugarcane, wheat, maize, cotton and sorghum. Natural grazing land is 26.5 percent of the total area, of

which some is used for cattle herding.

Because of apartheid rule, it's almost impossible to have an accurate picture of actual land ownership and distribution. The Land and Agriculture Desk of the ANC's Department of Economic Planning, led by Derek Hanekom, the newly appointed minister of Land Affairs, is working on gathering the facts needed for the land restitution program launched by the ANC.

"There are many dimensions to this," Hanekom said recently. "So far we only had access to official documents." When this reporter placed a call to a government agricultural office, the official on the line said they "were told not to give any figures to journalists, especially not on land owned by the state."

Here in the highlands of Natal, at the edge of the Drakensberg mountains, forces loyal to the Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthelezi have organized a campaign of violent intimidation against ANC supporters.

Driving to this remote village, you see some areas with posters urging people to vote for Inkatha. In other villages there were no visible election posters at all. Regardless of whether the ANC or Inkatha have majority support in any given area, *Militant* reporters found that working people share a common desire for land.

Small plots close to the huts are planted with corn, mealie-meal, or vegetables. Few cattle can be seen.

## Mansions and huts

Then suddenly a vast farm would appear, planted with thousands of acres of crops and large herds of cattle. On one end of this capitalist farm sits a mansion where the owner lives with his family. On the other is a collection of ramshackle tin and mud huts where the farmworkers live.

There are also huge plantations of pine

forests used for the paper industry, stretching over the hills of fertile soil. These plantations of thousands of acres are owned by Sappi&Mondi, which dominates the forest industry in South Africa, holding 55 percent of the market.

The pine planted is growing fast. It takes less than 10 years for a tree to be harvested.

Impendle, situated high up on a mountain, is typical of the rural areas. The large majority of residents here are unemployed. "Schools, better housing, jobs and roads are the most immediate needs," said resident Florence Ndela. She explained that better housing also meant electricity and water. There are almost no electrified homes here. Most people built their own dwellings out of mud. Drinking water is trucked in and a hillside tank serves the whole community.

Ndela's husband is unemployed and takes care of their cow and goats. For food she grows potatoes, spinach, and mealie-meal on their small plot of land.

The land here is owned by a traditional chief. It's up to him to decide who can rent a plot and who cannot. Residents don't have enough land to grow sufficient food to feed themselves.

Bongikosi Makhaye, 22, and Richard Funeka, 21, are farmworkers at the Ivanhoe farm, which is owned by a white farmer in the area. Makhaye works as a tractor driver and earns 110 rand per month. Funeka works as assistant to the tractor driver and gets 75 rand a month. Makhaye's brothers and sisters and other farmworkers at the site earn 60 rand a month. [One rand equals US\$0.27]

The rent for the hostel at the farm is deducted from the workers' salary, but they pay for the food served, which consists of potatoes and mealie-meal.

Continued on Page 12

## The Coming Revolution in South Africa

BY JACK BARNES



The world importance of the struggle to overthrow the apartheid system and the vanguard role of the African National Congress, which is committed to lead the national, democratic revolution in South Africa to a successful conclusion. In *New International* no. 5. Also includes "Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola." Three speeches by Fidel Castro. \$9.00

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# New gov't establishes relations with Cuba

Continued from front page

revolution mobilized its resources to aid the African National Congress-led battle to establish a nonracial, nonsexist democratic republic.

Some 300,000 Cuban volunteers served in Angola between 1975 and 1989 to ward off successive invasions by Pretoria's armies. Cuban troops played a decisive role at the historic battle of Cuito Cuanavale, where the South African army was routed.

"It is wonderful to be in South Africa," Castro told millions of viewers watching the "Agenda" program on South African TV May 11. "I realized that what has taken place over the past few days was without doubt an historic event for South Africa, for Africa, and for the world. It has been a privilege to witness the events." Asked by TV host Pieter Theron how he viewed future relations between South Africa and Cuba, Castro said, "I would like to believe we are more than friends. We are like family. A family does not discuss formal relations. The ties which have grown between the people of South Africa and Cuba are so deep that we feel at home here."

"What has South Africa got to offer Cuba, and what has Cuba got to offer South Africa?" Theron asked. "Regarding trade," Castro responded, "there is a long list of products which South Africa could offer to Cuba. We do not want gold, as we have no use for it." The Cuban president continued, "South Africa is now involved in a great experiment, and the whole world would like this experiment to succeed. It is important to mankind, which is involved in serious conflicts in many places."

## 'Spirit of Angola'

Castro said, "Cuba is a united country, with a spirit all its own. This is the spirit which emerged in Angola. At one point, without any assistance, we supported more than 50,000 troops almost 10,000 kilometers [6,200 miles] from home. That is proof of a strong nation driven by certain principles." Castro continued, "Our involvement in Angola led to many sacrifices. But we took the decision on our own, without the decision on our own, without the Soviet Union's knowledge. We did it out of sympathy and historical ties. It was not without risk. One always runs the risk of being defeated."

In a dispatch from Pretoria, Paul Taylor of the *Washington Post* wrote, "When the Cuban president arrived at the luncheon here at the Presidency, South African President Nelson Mandela's official residence, autograph seekers among the other 1,200 invited guests kept him so busy that for 2 1/2 hours he had no chance to touch his food." Taylor added that Castro "kept getting mobbed while the heads of bigger, stronger, and more prosperous countries were eating their roast beef in relative obscurity."

The May 13 edition of Johannesburg's *New Nation* carried an editorial stating, "What needs to be said very forcefully is that we might not have been in a position to celebrate a victory this week had it not been for the Cubans, who in the spirit of internationalism, committed their lives to defeating apartheid's defence force at Cuito Cuanavale. This was the decisive battle, which in many ways, triggered developments inside South Africa, culminating in our victory."

"And it was therefore only proper," the editorial continued, "when Fidel Castro was given the vocal recognition by those at the inauguration that he and his people deserve so much. While the debt we owe these nations is not one we can pretend we will be able to settle, we must at least acknowledge it."

Following the South African elections, Cubans paid tribute to the ANC electoral victory and those volunteers who died in Angola at meetings throughout Cuba.

## Product of struggle

*Granma*, the major daily newspaper in Cuba, carried a major front page editorial on May 4 entitled "South Africa: the victory belongs to those who struggle."

"Nelson Mandela and his courageous people are the certainty of dreams and hopes come true," said *Granma*. "As apartheid lies beheaded, they become the most extraordinary symbols of our times. Man-

dela and his people fought until they defeated that hated and repulsive system of apartheid, which is the product and essence of capitalism, colonialism, neocolonialism, and fascism."

The editorial described Cuba's contribution there as one that "may have been the last internationalist mission of the twentieth century. . . . We are proud that we have been and continue to be close comrades in arms of Nelson Mandela and the South African people." The newspaper continued, "The Cuban's confidence came from the knowledge of their own experience that it is the road of struggle, never the road of compromise and dangerous conciliation that leads to victory. . . ."

"Amandla, Nelson Mandela! Amandla, people of South Africa!" the editorial concluded.

## New government in formation

The first working session of South Africa's new nonracial Parliament will convene May 24 in Cape Town. Nelson Mandela will deliver an opening address, which is to be followed by a week-long debate on the speech. A 90-member Senate is to be constituted on May 20. The nine newly-elected regional assemblies will pick 10 members each for the Senate.

The regional legislatures will most likely convene in August. Their exact powers are to be determined by the national assembly.

In seven of these provinces, which have been redrawn to reflect the reincorporation of apartheid's Bantustans, leaders of the ANC won the premiership. They are Tokyo Sexwale in the Pretoria Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) province; Manne Dipico in the Northern Cape; Ngoako Ramatlodi in Northern Transvaal; Popo Molefe in the North West; Patrick Lekota in the Orange Free State; Mathews Phosa in the Eastern Transvaal; and Raymond Mhlaba in the Eastern Cape.

In the Western Cape, National Party leader Hennis Kriel, Law and Order minister for the former white regime, is the new premier. In KwaZulu/Natal, Inkatha Freedom Party leader Frank Mdlalose holds the post.

The double victory of holding South Africa's first nonracial elections and the resounding win for the ANC registered the conquests up to this point of the mass movement, which has fought for decades to win the revolutionary democratic demands contained in the Freedom Charter. The ANC has pledged to rapidly begin to implement the democratic demands embodied in this document, such as land reform, a large-scale public works program to provide jobs and create an infrastructure in areas of the country devastated by apartheid rule, and build housing for nearly 8 million people who live in squatter camps.

The National Party government sent South Africa's national debt soaring by \$17 billion in its final year in power. This brings total government debt to about \$57 billion, or 55 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

## Wave of strikes

A wave of strikes following the elections underlined the tasks facing the ANC in the fight to meet pressing economic and social needs.

Hundreds of civil servants in the North West province city of Mmabatho, formerly the capital of the Bophuthatswana Bantustan, declared a go-slow strike May 13. They demonstrated outside the parliament building and demanded salary parity with their counterparts in the rest of the country. Premier Popo Molefe said the regional government would address the workers demands "with the utmost urgency."

Miners at the Western Areas gold mine near Westonaria decided there would be no work until management took action to defuse tensions that led to fighting inside the mine. Seven miners died in clashes in the week leading up to May 12. According to the May 14 *Citizen*, National Union of Mineworkers assistant general secretary Gwede Mantashe said the clashes resulted from housing of workers along ethnic lines and the promotion of Inkatha-aligned elements to undermine the union.



Militant/Greg Rosenberg

Celebrating Mandela's inauguration at lawn of Union Building in Pretoria May 10.

South Africa's wealth remains sequestered by a handful of capitalist families who benefited by the superexploitation of Blacks under apartheid rule. According to one discussion document circulated in the PWV legislature for example, Anglo American Corporation alone owns 43.3 percent of the total share value on the Johannesburg stock exchange. More than 87 percent of all shares are owned by six corporations.

## Violence, right wing, and 'third force'

The post-election peace here was shattered May 13 when 12 people were shot dead in Tokoza, a township on Johannesburg's East Rand.

A Reuters dispatch quoted an unnamed resident alleging the deaths were a result of infighting between members of a local self-defense unit. A spokesperson for the South African National Defence Force made the same claim.

ANC spokesperson Ronnie Mamoepa said the organization was appealing for witnesses of the killings to come forward.

On May 11, the Rand Supreme Court sentenced six members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, a white ultrarightist outfit, to death for the murder of four Blacks last year. The rightists had set up a roadblock near Randfontein and began firing at people

"simply because they were Black," said the presiding judge.

Meanwhile, a lawyer for 32 rightists arrested for prelection bomb blasts said his clients should be released on bail in return for a promise that "they will stand trial and not interfere with state witnesses."

Judge Richard Goldstone, who heads a commission that is investigating political violence and terror in South Africa, argued for widespread exposure of crimes committed under apartheid rule in the May 13-19 *Weekly Mail & Guardian*. "The first step which our new parliament should take is to set up a commission to officially expose the past," he said. "It should hear evidence from the victims of human rights abuses and examine every detail of the system responsible for abuses on South African soil and in the region, whether by members of the security forces or in the ANC camps."

The ANC has proposed that the issue of amnesty for members of the police, military, and others accused of crimes between 1990 and December 1993 be deliberated in the national assembly. At an April 26 news conference here, Mandela said, "Those who committed offenses after December 1993 certainly won't get it. . . . We are not prepared to consider their case."

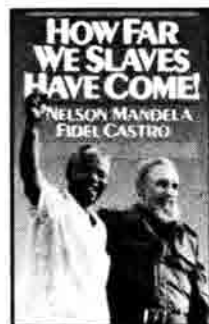
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# Quebec newspaper exposes deadly use of choke hold by cops

BY ROSEMARY RAY

MONTREAL — An internal Quebec provincial police (SQ) report on the Dec. 14, 1993, beating of Richard Barnabé by Montreal Urban Community (MUC) cops was recently leaked to *La Presse*, a French-language daily.

*La Presse* printed excerpts from the report in its April 30 edition with a front-page headline that read, "Seven minutes without oxygen: Barnabé may have been victim of a vigorous choke hold."

Above the newspaper article was a chilling photograph of Barnabé lying in a hospital bed with his eyes wide open. He has been in a permanent coma for the last five months.

Six MUC cops, five men and one woman, have been charged with assault causing bodily harm. Barnabé suffered a cranial trauma, brain lesions, and broken bones from the beating. Doctors say that he will never regain consciousness.

The *La Presse* story quoted Mark Anglé, chief anesthetist at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He wrote a letter to a government prosecutor saying that Barnabé's coma could have been induced by a choke hold that deprived his brain of oxygen for a minimum of seven minutes.

The police report also quotes an ambulance attendant, who was at the police station the night Barnabé was beaten. The attendant states that he saw Barnabé being held face-down with his hands cuffed behind his back. "When I looked in the door of the cell block the police were on his [Barnabé's] legs, on his back, and on his neck," he said.

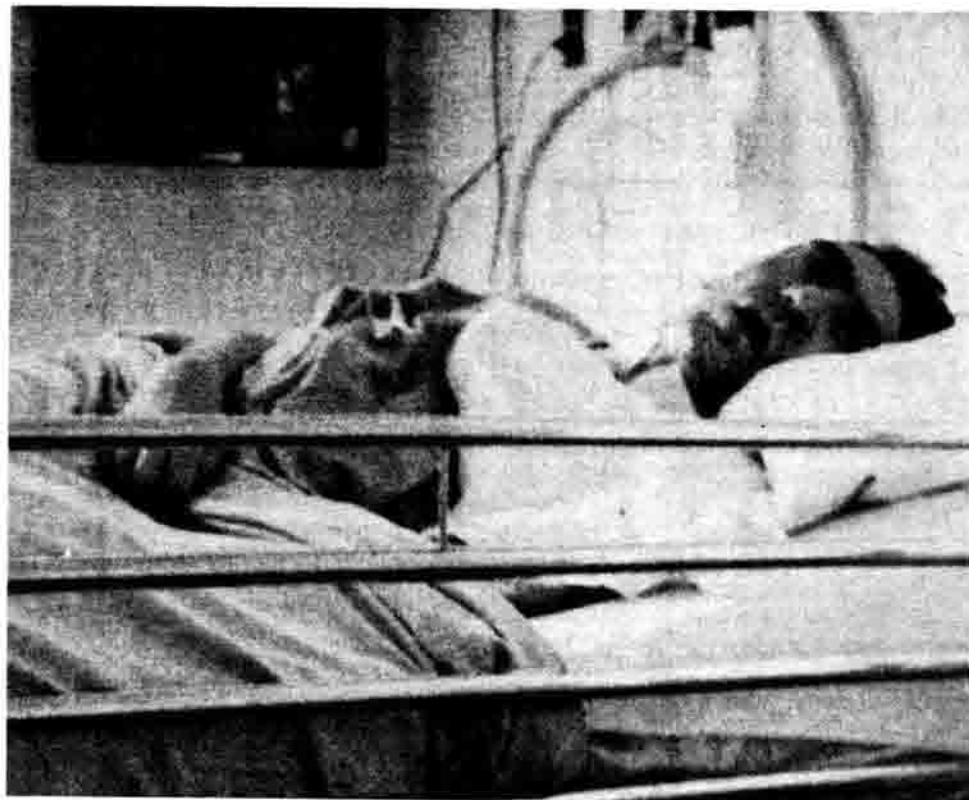
The attendant states he saw Barnabé before he was taken into the cell block unharmed. After having heard shouts and noise from the area, the attendant was called to assist Barnabé who at that point was "almost dead," according to the police report.

The report states that 45 minutes after walking into the police station Barnabé was taken to the hospital unconscious on a stretcher. He was semi-naked with his feet in chains.

## Long history of cop brutality

The opening paragraph of the *La Presse* story pointed to other incidents of police brutality in Quebec. "A too vigorous choke hold," it said, "like the one that killed Gaston Harvey in Pointe-au-Pic in 1986 could be the cause of the neurovegetative state of taxi driver Richard Barnabé."

Gaston Harvey was participating in a



Richard Barnabé, 39, has been laying in hospital bed in a vegetative coma since December, when Montreal cops nearly asphyxiated him to death by applying the choke hold.

demonstration in October 1986, organized by the Confederation of National Trade Unions, against the firing of 350 employees of the Manoir Richelieu hotel in Pointe-au-Pic who had been replaced by scabs.

The SQ cops arrested Harvey during the demonstration, accusing him of being drunk and disorderly. The cops said that Harvey resisted arrest. They claimed that

he died by choking on his own vomit while the cops struggled to subdue him. But a photojournalist exposed this allegation as a bald-faced lie. Harvey can be seen handcuffed in the published photograph, while an SQ cop is applying a choke hold on him.

Harvey's death exposed the deadly force of cop choke holds. It also laid bare the medical fact that choke holds leave no visible injuries and therefore make it difficult for doctors and coroners to determine the cause of death or injury.

After publishing these initial portions of the secret police report, *La Presse* announced it was going to print further excerpts a week later, which would contain statements made by the cops who have been charged in Barnabé's beating. As soon as the April 30 edition of *La Presse* hit the newsstands, the MUC police petitioned Quebec Superior Court for an injunction to stop the newspaper from publishing further details of the SQ report. The court granted a one-month injunction, which expires May 28.

The preliminary hearings in the trial of the six cops begin July 4.

Rosemary Ray is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1900.

# New Zealand bricklayer dies in police custody; family, friends demand justice

BY JAMES ROBB

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — A meeting to protest the death in police custody of Matthew Innes drew more than 200 people here May 5.

Innes, a 22-year-old self-employed bricklayer, died of brain damage on January 10 caused by suffocation he had suffered a week earlier while being held in the back of a police car. Innes, who lived in Sydney, Australia, had been visiting his brother in Auckland when he began showing signs of mental disturbance similar to what he had experienced several years earlier. A psychiatric nurse was called, and decided that the bricklayer should be taken to a mental hospital for assessment. The nurse called for police assistance.

Innes refused to go voluntarily, saying he would see a doctor where he was. Up until the time when he was touched, he had not committed any violent act or threatened anyone. When the police grabbed him, Innes began to struggle. The cops handcuffed his hands and feet, and laid him face down on the back seat of the police car. One constable sat on him, and punched him repeatedly on the 30-minute journey to the hospital. The constable driving the car admits to batoning Innes as well.

There are conflicting reports on the manner in which he was handcuffed. A police investigation stated that his left hand was drawn up behind his back to meet his right hand pulled down over his shoulder. However, Innes's brother, who helped to restrain him and place him in the car, said his hands were behind his back. Upon arrival at the hospital, staff members noted that his hands were behind his head.

They also discovered that Innes had stopped breathing. His jacket was pulled up over his face so tightly it had to be cut away. He never regained consciousness.

## Police officers 'counseled'

A report by the Police Complaints Authority released April 20 upheld a complaint made by the Innes family that the police officers concerned had used excessive force in restraining Innes. But, on the advice of the Crown Solicitor, the authority decided that the cops should not face charges. Instead, the police officers were "counseled." The cops involved were not identified in the report.

The Police Complaints Authority is John Jeffries, a former High Court judge.

The Innes family said they were "pro-

foundly dissatisfied" with the report and have called for the police to face charges in court. "Our family always considered themselves to be on the same side as the police. But the police make mistakes and they have to take responsibility for their actions," the victim's father, Paul Innes, told the meeting.

"I want the people that did it to explain what happened, and they are going to have to do so in a court or some other way," he added. The meeting began collecting money to enable the Innes family to file a private lawsuit against the police officers. "We have to do what the authorities should have done in the first place," Paul Innes said.

Barry Wilson, a lawyer from the Auckland Council for Civil Liberties, said, "A man's life has been taken, and the offenders have gone scot-free. Why weren't criminal charges laid? The immunity for police officers regardless of what they do must cease."

## Police car chases

The death of Innes took place after other cases of police brutality have received considerable publicity. There have been a series of incidents involving police car chases.

- In Christchurch last September, two bystanders were killed when their car was hit by another vehicle that was being pursued by cops. The Police Complaints Authority cleared police of all blame.

- In Auckland in February, a teenage youth was injured when he was struck by a police car. The police officers had been reenacting a traffic accident, which had taken place earlier at the same spot. The unauthorized reenactment is being investigated. One of the police officers involved in this incident, Constable Chris Vincent, was also involved in the Innes death. He has been removed from "frontline duties."

- There was a further fatality in Auckland in late April, when a car being pursued at high speed through busy city streets crashed, killing the driver instantly. The chase was widely criticized by witnesses. Mark Linton, a taxi driver at the scene, said, "These chases are getting out of hand. They chased that car until it crashed."

Police have also come under criticism for their detention of a man they believed had a heroin-filled condom in his body. Waiting unsuccessfully for him to have a bowel motion, they held the man under

constant observation, without arresting or charging him, for 21 days. This is the maximum allowed under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Three and half hours before he was due to be released, the police formally arrested the man and charged him with possession of heroin for supply, effectively continuing his detention.

James Robb is a member of the Meat Workers' Union in Auckland, New Zealand.

# Texas death row inmate wins appeal

BY PATTI IYAMA

HOUSTON — Gary Graham, a Black death row inmate fighting for his life, was given a new opportunity to prove his innocence by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on April 20. At the same time the court lifted the stay of execution granted to Graham last summer.

For the first time, the state's highest criminal court established a procedure for inmates to ask the courts to consider new evidence that emerged after their trials. Previously, new evidence in a capital murder case could not be introduced more than 30 days after a conviction.

"This is an important victory for Gary Graham," said Mandy Welch, executive director of the Texas Resource Center, which represents Graham and other death row inmates. "Mr. Graham has been trying to find a proper forum to present evidence of his innocence, and today the Court of Criminal Appeals has reversed earlier rulings and said this evidence should be presented to the state courts."

Graham was convicted in 1981 of the robbery and murder of Bobby Lambert in a Houston grocery store parking lot. Graham, who was 17 at the time, was defended by a court-appointed attorney who assumed he was guilty, according to an affidavit filed by an investigator.

The eyewitnesses' names were kept from the defense by the prosecutor. In addition, the prosecutor suppressed the ballistics report proving that the fatal bullet did not come from Graham's gun.

Graham was convicted solely on the testimony of a single witness to the crime, who testified she saw the killer's face for no more than a second. Since the trial, six witnesses have come forward to swear that

the killer they saw could not have been Graham. Five more have placed Graham elsewhere that night, far from the scene of the crime.

Susan Dillow, a leader of the Gary Graham Defense Committee, stopped short of calling the ruling a victory. In a telephone interview she pointed out that "the ruling opens an avenue of appeal that didn't exist before, but the standard of proof for considering the new evidence is extraordinary."

Unlike in a trial, where the defendant is supposed to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, the convicted inmate in this proceeding will have to prove his innocence so "no rational trier of fact [the judge] could find proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt," according to the language of the ruling.

"Even with Gary's strong case of new evidence, it will be very tough for him to win this appeal, unless he has the actual murderer standing right beside him and confessing to the crime," said Dillow.

The defense committee is planning a series of actions, including Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations for Graham's parents and a Death Row Speak-out in northern California May 12. The speakout will publicize not only Gary Graham's case, but those of two other death row inmates, Erskine Johnson of Memphis, Tennessee, and Mumia Abu-Jamal of Philadelphia.

Messages of support or contributions can be sent to: Gary Graham Justice Coalition, P.O. Box 66806, Houston, TX 77266.

Patti Iiyama is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-227.



# Caterpillar workers walk out in Illinois

Continued from front page

us. The company breaks them all the time."

Caterpillar has also charged that the union leadership has manipulated workers and forced them to strike. But Jerry Brown, president of UAW Local 974, denies the charge. "Our people are fed up," Brown told the press. "They are mad. We were telling them not to walk out. But the parade was already going and we just tried to get ahead of it." Local 974 represents some 9,000 workers in several Caterpillar plants in this area.

Caterpillar has mailed striking employees letters threatening that it will be "recalling laid-off workers and to the extent necessary will be hiring permanent full-time employees who we hope will make a career at Caterpillar."

Despite the threats, UAW members on the picket lines May 18 reported that the strike is solid with only a few workers crossing to go to work. "They thought lots of people would go back today, but the letter isn't having the impact the company wanted," one picket said.

Hundreds of workers have massed at various plant-gates throughout the East Peoria complex and other struck plants at shift change times. Vance security guards, hired anti-labor thugs, and supervisors with video



UAW Local 974 members picket outside gate at Caterpillar's Mossville plant May 17 after 7,500 workers struck three plants in Illinois when management suspended 30 workers. Pickets try to direct traffic past the plant on Illinois Route 29 while a Caterpillar security person (second from left) tries to move cars onto company property.

cameras stand watch over company property unsuccessfully attempting to intimidate workers.

Local union officials from across the Caterpillar chain were summoned to a May 17-

18 conference in Detroit by international UAW officials. Many workers believe a chain-wide strike will be needed to bring Caterpillar to the bargaining table, but think the current strike "may not be the 'big one,'" as one

striker put it. A mass meeting for Local 974 members has been scheduled for May 20.

## Walkouts in Decatur, York

The strike comes on the heels of several walkouts by workers at other Caterpillar plants around the country in just a few weeks. Some 1,700 workers walked off the job in Decatur, Illinois, for a few hours May 16.

On May 12, 1,500 workers struck Caterpillar for three days in York, Pennsylvania. Barry Koicuba, president of Local 786, reported that the strike was sparked when a shop steward, George Erbe, who had been repeatedly harassed by management, was rushed to the hospital complaining of chest pains. Erbe became ill from stress after a management stooge watched over him for several days. Caterpillar said it was performing "time studies" on the worker's machine. The steward has a history of heart problems.

John Samac, a member of the York UAW bargaining committee, said workers were informed of Erbe's hospitalization at 1 p.m. and the strike was called half an hour later. "Everyone was out of the plant by 1:45 p.m.," he said. "The company was stunned," Koicuba added.

About 750 UAW members in Pontiac, Illinois, walked off the job May 10 and 11 when Tim Crumpler was suspended for allegedly failing to follow the instructions of a security guard. Crumpler's car had stalled in the company parking lot as he was leaving work a day earlier.

The company claimed Crumpler refused to move his car and then denied him union representation to respond to the charges and disciplinary action.

Workers in Decatur and Aurora, Illinois, struck April 26 after the company denied a shop steward his right to represent members of Local 751 in Decatur. The strike involved more than 3,300 UAW members.

UAW members in the Caterpillar chain have been working without a contract for more than two years. In April 1992 workers were ordered back to work by top union officials after a five-month strike. The company had threatened to hire scabs. Since then, workers have faced continual harassment by bosses, speedup, denial of union rights, and worsening working conditions under a "final offer" imposed by the company.

Caterpillar's all-time profits and sales combined with low inventories have put workers in a favorable position vis-a-vis the company. *Business Week* reported May 16 that Caterpillar's earnings are projected to climb 16 percent this year, to \$760 million, as sales rise 7 percent, to \$12 billion.

Peter Thierjung is a member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland. Candace Wagner from St. Louis and Aaron Ruby from Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

## Canadian Pacific rail workers oppose crew cuts

BY JON HILLSON  
AND CHRIS NISAN

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — An April 15 deadline set by owners of the Canadian Pacific railroad (CP) for its U.S. workers to accept a concessions contract passed as negotiators for the United Transportation Union (UTU) rejected the offer.

The bosses giveback package slashes the crew size by half, leaving virtually all road and yard switching jobs to an engineer and conductor. To sweeten the deal, workers are offered a signing bonus, "short crew" pay, termination buyout bribes, and a small wage increase. UTU members on the Canadian Pacific have not had a pay raise since 1988.

The union represents 1,100 CP switchmen, brakemen, conductors, and hostlers from the Dakotas to Missouri, 300 of whom work in its Twin Cities terminal hub.

The biggest hiring in recent memory continues throughout the system. In St. Paul, more than 50 new workers have gotten jobs in the last 10 months, including trainees as young as 18, and a number of Blacks and women workers.

The Montreal-based part of Canadian Pacific's empire includes oil and gas units, ocean shipping, and trucking. CP also owns a 48 percent share of Unitel, Canada's long-distance phone company.

The Canadian Pacific is currently the sixth largest railroad in North America. It hopes to acquire the eastern operations of the Canadian National (CN) railroad.

Rail union officials in Canada recently stated they would set a deadline in June for a national strike to counter CN's efforts to gut job security provisions on the railroad.

Of the six top carriers, the CP ranks last in operating ratio — how much of a dollar it spends to make a dollar, a key barometer of profitability. It also maintains the oldest engine fleet among its rivals.

Conditions in the Twin Cities terminal "are like psychological warfare," according to Don Hochhalter, a switchman and vice-local chairman of UTU Local 1882.

The railroad has fixed up an unused switching area for instructing nonunion personnel in train operation. Different yard jobs are often combined, with crews routinely forced to work 12-hour shifts.

The carrier is also forcing workers hired after 1985 into engineer training. Failing this course leads to getting fired.

New "security procedures" have been instituted in the CP's downtown Minneapolis offices. Trainmasters (supervisors) have taken instructional trips with union engineers for "strike preparation."

"Every move they make seems to indicate trying to break the UTU on the CP," said Jeff Grab, a switchman for 17 years.

## Injuries mount

"The one-man crew is dangerous as hell," Grab said. "Right after Christmas a good friend of mine lost his arms and legs" while riding on a tank car at the end of a train that was moving backwards. "That's because there's no caboose to ride in, because they took back the caboose. What do you think will happen when it's one man all alone out there?"

"How long can your legs and body take this kind of work?" asked Dave Heath, a switchman for 30 years and a member of UTU Local 911. "Who'll work to retirement? What happens to guys coming up?"

Under new railroad retirement guidelines, workers born in 1960 or afterwards must work until age 67 to collect full benefits.

The CP's in-house publications cite failure in 1993 to meet modest goals for injury reduction.

Last fall, a CP North Dakota trainee was killed when a boxcar in which he was riding

tipped on a derail mechanism and crushed him. In the spring of 1993, a carman lost his arms and legs here when an unbraked car rolled over him. In February, all 1,500 inhabitants and nearby residents of Burlington, North Dakota, were evacuated when a St. Paul-bound train derailed and a propane tank car exploded, igniting lumber cars. A 16-year old boy lost an arm in the fire.

The CP's sharpest attack is on new workers, deemed ineligible for the bribes, bonuses, and buyouts offered to pre-1993 hires. It takes five years to reach the basic wage, starting at 75 percent pay.

"When you look at the arbitraries [paid fringe benefits for pre-1985 workers]," he said, new hires "really work for 55 percent of what those workers get."

The railroad, said Grab, wants "junior hires, 75 percenters to operate everything."

Many older workers "tell us 'I hope you're around after the contract,'" said a new switchperson. "Like it's just going to happen that we'll get laid off. And some guys think we've been hired to break a strike."

"I say," she continued, "that I'm here to defend my job and your job. I want you to defend me. I'd never cross a picket line."

Jon Hillson and Chris Nisan are switchmen on the Canadian Pacific railroad and members of UTU Local 1882.

## Workers at USAir vote in union

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — In an important victory for the labor movement, fleet service workers at USAir voted for union representation in a mail-in ballot conducted by the National Mediation Board. More than 66 percent of eligible employees voted for one of three unions running in the election.

In the last election, held in 1992, only 47 percent voted union, short of the 50 percent plus one needed for representation.

A baggage handler at Pittsburgh International Airport explained his satisfaction at the outcome. "Year after year they've lowered our wages, taken away our benefits and relegated us to part time work," he said. "Now we'll have collective representation and a contract the company will have to abide by."

The International Association of Machin-

ists (IAM), which already represents some 8,000 workers at USAir, gained 1,813 votes, nearly 36 percent of the ballots cast. The United Steelworkers of America (USWA), came in second with 1,746 votes or 34 percent, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters got 30 percent. Some 2,600 workers chose not to send in their ballots. The IAM and the USWA will be in a runoff to determine representation. Union officials say ballots should be sent out in four to six weeks.

Even though the unions were in intense competition for the vote, supporters of all three groups agree that company's attacks helped bring out the pronoun vote.

Edwin Fruit is a member of IAM Local Lodge 1976 and works for USAir at Pittsburgh International Airport.

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# Farmworkers in Natal

Continued from Page 8

"Mandela has to lead South Africa," Funeka said. "We have to get our own place to grow crops. The white man just gives six meters [19.7 feet] of land and expects me to live on that. The new government will come up with some way to help us get land. It will be solved with the new government."

The farmworkers are in the fields from 7:30 a.m. till 5:00 p.m., or later if their job is not finished. They work seven days a week with one weekend off per month. If the boss claims they made a mistake or if some equipment needs repair, it is deducted from their salary. The farm owner will try to use the sjambok, a whip, if he finds it necessary to punish workers demanding better pay and conditions.

Both Makhaye and Funeka said it is impossible to get better conditions on the farm. There are no union members there. "We would rather have our own land," they said.

Two women workers, Deli Ngubane, 19, and Themba Ndela, 23, had just returned from cutting grass to make brooms to sell. Ndela said they were forced to pay 20 rand for their voting cards. An Inkatha supporter took the money himself. Ngubane said when people from this area went down to the polling station the first day of the elections to get their voting cards they were allowed in the taxi of Master Shelembe, the local Inkatha chief. But the second day when they wanted to cast their votes they were told by Inkatha they had to walk.

Dennis Zuma, who lost two brothers in Inkatha raids to the village, badly needs land. He tills a tiny plot outside his mud and grass hut. Zuma said, speaking of King Goodwill Zwelithini, "We are in the new South Africa now. The king in the new era must go out and work like other men."

"The Inkatha people have guns which they use to intimidate us," said Roi Ndela, another farmworker. "Those guns should be taken away from them by the new government. Why should people guard themselves if they have no enemies? Master Shelembe has 12-20 bodyguards. The problem is Gatsha [Buthelezi] is using culture for his identity. If you are a Zulu and go up to the Transvaal, people will think you are Inkatha."

Muzi Ngubane, 27, insisted that many workers are determined to change the situation. "Now we are determined to build an ANC branch here," he said. "It's no use to sit back. We must get out. If we die, we die."

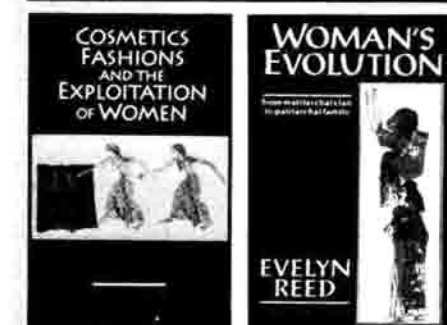
## — CALENDAR —

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**March for Immigrant Rights.** Sat., May 28, 10 a.m. Meet at corner of Broadway and Washington, march to Los Angeles City Hall (corner of First and Main). Sponsored by California Latino Civil Rights Network, L.A. region. For more information: (818) 282-9431.

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# MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Speaker: Aaron Ruby, Socialist Workers Party, lived and taught in Nicaragua from 1981 to 1986. Recently reported from Cuba, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. Dinner 5:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$5. Dinner: \$5. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### San Francisco

**Labor Resistance Today: Discussion on Lessons from 24-day Teamsters Strike, the One-day Strike at UPS, and Auto Workers' Fight at Caterpillar.** Speakers: Jack Boyle, Teamsters Local 315 shop steward at Consolidated Freightways; Scott Rodman, Teamsters Local 315 shop steward at United Parcel Service, Richmond California; and Ellen Berman, Socialist Workers Party, and member of United Auto Workers' (UAW)

Local 2244, participant in UAW contingent in May 7 international rally for Caterpillar workers in Peoria, Illinois. Sun., May 29, 5:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$4. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

### Washington, D.C.

**South Africa: Eyewitness Report and Slideshow from the First Nonracial Elections.** Speakers: Derrick Cogburn, Howard University political science student; Jeff Wheeler, South Africa activist. Thurs, May 26, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd. NW (in Adams Morgan). Donation \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

## BRITAIN

### London

**The Birth of a New South Africa — An Eye-**

# Activists in N.Y. celebrate new Mandela book

BY EVA BRAIMAN

NEW YORK — "The personality and character of Mr. Mandela's stature has certainly achieved for him the well-deserved title and position of a symbol of struggle for freedom. This is attested to by the impeccable words of and for freedom reproduced in this book," said Bud Haithcoath, an auto worker at a Ford Motor assembly plant and a member of United Auto Workers Local 980.

Haithcoath was part of a panel of speakers at an April 20 program at Columbia University to celebrate the publication of Pathfinder Press's *Nelson Mandela Speaks: Forging a Democratic, Nonracial South Africa*. Some 150 people attended the event.

Sponsors of the celebration included the African Students Association, Black Students Organization, Institute of African Studies, and Pan African House at Columbia; the Barnard Organization of Black Women; the Coalition for Democracy in South Africa; and New York City Pathfinder Bookstores.

Kiki Nwokoye, vice president of the African Student Organization on campus, welcomed guests to the event. Columbia political science professor Carlton Long also made opening remarks. Messages were read from African National Congress secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC vice president Walter Sisulu, U.S. Rep. Ronald Dellums and U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, South African archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Don Rojas, director of communications for the NAACP.

"Mandela never refrains from making clear that this is part of the world struggle for democracy and freedom," said Cleveland Robinson, executive vice president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the chairperson of the New York State Martin Luther King Holiday Commission. "It is not enough to admire his speeches, or even learn them page by page. They should be translated into action because



Militant/Arthur Hughes  
ANC representative Madala Mthembu at the Nelson Mandela Speaks New York rally.

action is what really counts.

"The greatest challenge faced by the ANC is the postelection struggle," Robinson said. "We must ask ourselves, 'Are we prepared to assist?' Our freedom here depends upon the outcome of that struggle. This is what we need to look towards, to use the book for. This is the challenge before us."

Steve Clark, who traveled to South Africa to compile and edit *Nelson Mandela Speaks* for Pathfinder, spoke about recent events in South Africa and the dynamics of the unfolding democratic revolution there. He noted the collapse of the homeland system under the crushing weight of the mobilizations and demands of the majority.

It was "the intervention of millions of working people, the majority of South Africans, onto the stage of history that the apartheid rulers did not reckon on, but that was the basis of the entire political course

witness Report. Speaker: Martin Marriott, recently returned from South Africa. Sun., May 29, 2 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-401-2409.

**Iran, Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian Republics.** Speakers: Marcella FitzGerald, Ma'Mud Shirvani, recently returned from visiting Iran. Tues., May 31, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-401-2409.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Auckland

**A Special Celebration of ANC Victory in South Africa.** An evening to raise funds for the Marxist magazine *New International*. Talks followed by supper and social. Sat., May 28, 6 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

of Nelson Mandela and the ANC," Clark said.

In the speeches contained in *Nelson Mandela Speaks*, he said, "Mandela appeals not to the emotions, not to the resentments, not to the fears of those he is speaking to, but to their capacity to think, their capacity to be disciplined, their capacity to act together in a collective way. He is convinced their consciousness, their confidence in their own self-worth, the confidence of those who labor and produce society's wealth is what matters and is ultimately all that matters."

Rabbi Janise Poticha said that she had been struck by the poverty in South Africa, including the disparities in living conditions and "the depravity of life in the townships, conditions not fit for any life."

Ibrahim Sadeeg, a student from Durban, South Africa, and a member of the ANC, said the most important themes in *Nelson Mandela Speaks* were "democratic methods of struggle: how to organize, mobilize, and galvanize supporters in a quest for one's goals." Sadeeg said Mandela "calls upon people to be vigilant, to have frank, open, and honest discussions, not to resort to factionalism and sectarianism, to remain independent and critical but also to engage in struggle."

The final and featured speaker was Madala Mthembu, Assistant to the chief representative to the ANC mission to the United States. When you read *Nelson Mandela Speaks*, Mthembu said, "you see sincerity, you see honesty and above all you see principle on the part of Nelson Mandela and the entire ANC leadership. Nelson Mandela speaks convincingly to humanity. Through his words he encourages others to embrace the ideals of non-racialism, nonsexism and democracy and reinforces our resolve. Nelson Mandela is a giant, but so are we all."

Through organizing the celebration and at the meeting itself, 23 copies of *Nelson Mandela Speaks* were sold.

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**Any bridal consent?** — In Kentucky, a man who argued that a girl, 13, had consented to having sex, was convicted of statutory rape and



Harry Ring

given five years. He and the girl are now married and have a child. The state appeals court said the marital sex was legal because it had parental consent.

**They'll learn** — A Leipzig official said the image of the former

East German city has been tarnished by Jürgen Schneider, the developer who ran up billions in debts and vanished. For East Germans, the official said, this was a first-time experience. "Naturally," he added, "there is a much greater sense of horror than you would find in other places, where people understand that these things happen."

**Corporate humor?** — The feds are seeking millions in overcharges from Rockwell International stemming from padded cost-plus war contracts. Earlier, Rockwell paid \$450,000 to settle a whistle-blower's suit involving tax-subsidized gifts at the Rocky Flats nuclear plant — including a \$1,300 lead-plated jock strap.

**Stamping out crime** — San Francisco invested \$1.4 million in a fingerprint/computer system to catch welfare cheats. (Impoverished adults receive a fast \$345 a month.) After fingerprinting 10,000 recipients, welfare cops came up with a single individual who assertedly wrongfully collected the \$345 a month for four months.

**Their zipper hooks?** — Police in Torrance, a Los Angeles suburb, are checking complaints that on-duty cops regularly dropped in for sex at a house where strippers are dispatched to private parties. A police official said that if any of the cops came forward and admitted what they had done, "that would show some honesty that could have

some mitigating effect." But, he sternly added, "it may not get them off the hook entirely."

**Managed health care** — Pat Walter, a northern California woman with breast cancer, had to take court action to compel Foundation Health Corp., a for-profit HMO, to pay \$120,000 for an experimental bone-marrow transplant. Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the company's chief exec had "earned" a total of more than \$4 million last year.

**Elevator reading** — "Elevator music (besides just being good music) is essentially a distillation of the happiness that modern technology has promised." — A book about Muzak, the top pur-

voyor of elevator music.

**Funny as a bedsheet** — The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is checking complaints that commission member Kenneth Robinson made racist and anti-Semitic remarks at meetings. At an educational session on the Holocaust, he cracked that the Jewish speaker "can teach you guys to count money and you can teach him to jump." He said he was just kidding.

**"It takes all kinds"** — Delicate-tongued AT&T has created a "diversity" post to oversee company ties with "minorities" and other groups with "diverse interests." They said this was not related to an NAACP complaint about a racist cartoon in an in-house magazine.

## The American system of exploitation, oppression

Excerpts from Malcolm X interview with 'Young Socialist' magazine in 1965

May 19 is the birthday anniversary of Malcolm X, one of the foremost revolutionary leaders to emerge out of the working class in the United States. In tribute, we are printing below excerpts from an interview Malcolm X gave to the *Young Socialist* magazine in January 1965. The full text can be found in the Pathfinder book *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Copyright © Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

**YOUNG SOCIALIST:** What image of you has been projected by the press?

**MALCOLM X:** Well, the press has purposely and skillfully projected me in the image of a racist, a race supremacist, and an extremist.

**YOUNG SOCIALIST:** What's wrong with this image? What do you really stand for?

**MALCOLM X:** First, I'm not a racist. I'm against every form of racism and segregation, every form of discrimination. I believe in human beings, and that all human beings should be respected as such, regardless of their color.

**YOUNG SOCIALIST:** Why did you break with the Black Muslims?

**MALCOLM X:** I didn't break, there was a split. The split came about primarily because they put me out, and they put me out because of my uncompromising approach to problems I thought should be solved and the movement could solve.

I felt the movement was dragging its feet in many areas. It didn't involve itself in the civil or civic or political struggles our people were confronted by. All it did was stress the importance of moral reformation — don't drink, don't smoke, don't permit fornication and adultery. When I found that the hierarchy itself wasn't practicing what it preached, it was clear that this part of its program was bankrupt.

So the only way it could function and be meaningful in the community was to take part in the political and economic facets of the Negro struggle. And the organization wouldn't do that because the stand it would have to take would have been too militant, uncompromising, and activist, and the hierarchy had gotten conservative. It was motivated mainly by protecting its own self-interests.

I might also point out that although the Black Muslim movement professed to be a

religious group, the religion they had adopted — Islam — didn't recognize them. So religiously it was in a vacuum. And it didn't take part in politics, so it was not a political group. When you have an organization that's neither political nor religious and doesn't take part in the civil rights struggle, what can it call itself? It's in a vacuum. So all of these factors led to my splitting from the organization. . . .

**YOUNG SOCIALIST:** How do you define Black nationalism, with which you have been identified?

**MALCOLM X:** I used to define Black nationalism as the idea that the Black man should control the economy of his community, the politics of his community, and so forth.

But when I was in Africa in May, in Ghana, I was speaking with the Algerian ambassador who is extremely militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word (and has his credentials as such for having carried on a successful revolution against oppression in his country). When I told him that my political, social, and economic philosophy was Black nationalism, he asked me very frankly: Well, where did that leave him? Because he was white. He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances, he was a white man. And he said if I define my objective as the victory of Black nationalism, where does that leave him? Where does that leave revolutionaries in Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania? So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary.

So I had to do a lot of thinking and reappraising of my definition of Black nationalism. Can we sum up the solution to the problems confronting our people as Black nationalism? And if you notice, I haven't been using the expression for several months. But I still would be hard pressed to give a specific definition of the overall philosophy which I think is necessary for the liberation of the Black people in this country. . . .

**YOUNG SOCIALIST:** What is your opinion of the worldwide struggle now going on between capitalism and socialism?

**MALCOLM X:** It is impossible for capitalism to survive, primarily because the system of capitalism needs some blood to suck. Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now



Malcolm X with students from Tuskegee Institute, a predominantly Black university in Alabama, where he addressed several thousand people February 3, 1965.

it's more like a vulture. It used to be strong enough to go and suck anybody's blood whether they were strong or not. But now it has become more cowardly, like the vulture, and it can only suck the blood of the help-

less. As the nations of the world free themselves, then capitalism has less victims, less to suck, and it becomes weaker and weaker. It's only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely.

## 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interest of the Working People  
May 30, 1969 Price 10¢

A spectacular victory for the antiwar movement and for constitutional rights was achieved May 20 when Army authorities at Ft. Jackson, S.C., threw in the towel and announced they were dropping their planned prosecution of the last three of eight antiwar GIs. The case is probably without parallel in U.S. military history.

The eight victorious servicemen, whom the Army originally intended to imprison, had been guilty of no other "crime" than insisting on exercising their constitutional right of free speech to discuss and express their opposition to U.S. aggression in Vietnam. They were associated with a group known as GIs United Against the War in Vietnam. Originally initiated by black and Puerto Rican GIs, the group also included whites. The eight were placed in custody March 20 after a spontaneous discussion developed among the men in their company outside the barracks. The gathering had been completely orderly throughout.

They had no illusions about the military and its utter contempt for the rights of enlisted men. But they recognized another fact: Given the wide antiwar sentiment in the general public, as well as in the Army itself, and given the deep commitment to democratic rights among wide layers of the American people, they were in a unique position

to assert their legal rights.

In sum, eight heroic young men have provided an example and an inspiration for all those inside and outside the armed forces who oppose this dirty war and want to act to end it.

**THE MILITANT**  
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS  
May 27, 1944

The capitalist press has maintained the tightest censorship over events in northern Italy since the great strikes which several weeks ago paralyzed industry in the cities of Milan, Turin and Genoa. But news does appear in the European press.

Thus the *Basler National Zeitung* published a dispatch from Chiasso on April 24 which told of the continuing mass onslaughts against the fascist "Republican" government of [Benito] Mussolini and the Nazi occupation authorities. This dispatch tells of "almost daily-occurring murders of Fascist dignitaries and militia officers." The Nazi-Fascists are taking savage reprisals by executing hostages and sending expeditions against armed partisans in the mountain areas.

Guerrillas in the province of Padua killed eleven German officers and four Fascists, in addition to capturing five prisoners. In the Val di Lanzo region of Piedmont heavy fighting occurred in which there were 200 German and Fascist casualties. The guerrilla partisans lost 100 dead. Similar actions occurred in the Cuneo region and in the Rieti region.

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MALCOLM X

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#### Malcolm X Talks to Young People

"I for one will join in with anyone, I don't care what color you are, as long as you want to change this miserable condition that exists on this earth" — Malcolm X, Britain, December 1964. Also includes Malcolm's 1965 interview with the *Young Socialist* magazine. 110 pp. \$10.95

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# Stand with Caterpillar workers

A major confrontation is looming in the two-year war between members of the United Auto Workers and the bosses at Caterpillar, Inc. The entire labor movement has a stake in its outcome.

On May 16 workers at the giant earth moving equipment company's Mossville, Illinois, plant walked off the job after the company suspended 30 workers for hanging balloons with union slogans in the factory. Another 30 workers were indefinitely suspended for attending a labor rally in Peoria, Illinois, the previous week. Fifteen thousand unionists and their supporters from across the country participated in that rally, which was called to show solidarity with the fighting Cat workers. When workers at Caterpillar plants in Mapleton and East Peoria, Illinois, got wind of the May 16 protest, they walked out too.

The Mossville skirmish is not the first. In fact, rank and file workers at Caterpillar have become increasingly willing in recent weeks to use union power to confront the bosses.

A real network has developed among the Caterpillar workers in plants throughout Illinois and Pennsylvania. Within hours after the bosses suspended Bob Fleshman, nicknamed "Coal miner" by his coworkers, the identical chant "Where's Coal miner" echoed in plants in several cities.

The stakes in the Caterpillar battle are big. When the company forced the union out on strike more than two years ago they were looking to break a major union in an important industrial sector, drive up productivity, and increase their profits on the backs of the workers. UAW members waged a militant five-month strike that gained the support of workers, farmers, and students across the Midwest and throughout the country. When management threatened to call in scabs, rank and file workers poured

onto the picket lines. They only returned to work under orders from top union officials.

The company thought they had won. They imposed their "final offer" — including onerous work schedules, changes in workrules, paycuts, and slashed benefits. But the workers had not been defeated. They took the fight from the picket line to the shop floor, returning to work with their union T-shirts and chants, determined to beat back the company offensive.

Today, many workers correctly believe that objective conditions, combined with the strength they've gained through the two-year confrontation with management, make it more likely they can score some gains against the company and get a decent contract. Caterpillar is inundated with orders and plagued by low inventory. There's more hiring going on, including of young workers giving unionists more confidence and more room to fight.

UAW members at Caterpillar are also stronger today because they stand on the shoulders of other union battles — from last year's strikes of United Mine Workers of America coal miners and flight attendants at American to the recent nationwide walkout of 75,000 Teamsters and steelworkers on strike today at Allegheny Ludlum.

As they gear up for the battles ahead, workers at Caterpillar can link up with these and other fighters. The May 7 rally of 15,000 in Peoria was a good example. Unionists, students, and others can invite UAW members at Caterpillar to speak at their locals or on campus. Unions can send delegations to Peoria, Decatur, and York to meet with the workers on the front lines. A victory for the union at Caterpillar will be a victory for all of labor. Let's stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters at Caterpillar!

# The 'Angola spirit'

In his July 26, 1991, speech to an audience in Matanzas, Cuba, African National Congress president Nelson Mandela, sharing the platform with Cuban president Fidel Castro, told those in attendance, "Your presence and the reinforcement of your forces in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale [in 1988] was of truly historic significance. The crushing defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale was a victory for the whole of Africa!" For all humanity, indeed.

The historic events of the past several weeks in the former mecca of racism register the advances made so far by the revolutionary democratic mass movement the ANC leads. They are a product of the struggles by millions of working people within South Africa and around the world. Untold thousands paid for these victories in blood, among them many Cuban volunteers.

The enthusiastic response by hundreds of thousands to the visit of Castro during Mandela's inauguration is indicative of the impact Cuban internationalists have made and the unbreakable links they've developed with freedom fighters in South Africa.

When Pretoria's troops invaded Angola in 1975, Cuba was the only country in the world to respond to pleas for aid. It was a conscious decision by the leadership of the Cuban revolution to place all of the resources at its command at the service of the world revolution, the "spirit

which emerged in Angola," as Castro aptly put it. Only a workers state with a communist leadership could carry out this type of internationalist action.

Washington's representatives at Mandela's inauguration did their best in their sheepish ways to claim some credit for ending apartheid. But it was under the direct coddling of the U.S. government that the white-minority state was consolidated. And it was Washington that funded and trained the reactionary mercenaries of UNITA in Angola with whom — along with their backers from Pretoria — the Cubans, Angolans, Namibians, and South African freedom fighters battled.

The example of the socialist revolution in Cuba and its unparalleled internationalism — the working class putting itself at the service of humanity — has inspired fighters throughout southern Africa and the world.

The historic events registered in the outcome of South Africa's nonracial elections are proud moments for the Cuban revolution. They can only reinforce the determination of thousands of Cubans to defend socialism and fight for the revolution's survival. The example set by Cuban communists will continue to be crucial for the revolutionary forces in South Africa as they chart a course toward eradicating apartheid's legacy and implementing the Freedom Charter.

# Clinic Act saps liberties

The recently passed Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, while touted by many as a gain for women's right to abortion, actually sets a dangerous precedent for democratic rights.

The measure calls for much stiffer penalties for such acts as blockading the doors to a facility where abortions are performed. The legal argument is that such actions violate the right of a business to function. Think of how often the same formulation can be — and is — used against workers who go on strike, students demonstrating at a university, and other political protest actions.

Opponents of abortion rights have jumped on this as an opportunity to pose as champions of democratic rights, cynically claiming that their reactionary campaign to drive back the social gains women have won is comparable to the mass movement for civil rights for Blacks.

The campaign by many pro-choice groups to pass this legislation points supporters of abortion rights in the wrong direction, toward looking to liberal social engineers and judges eager to restrict liberties to uphold women's rights. The Clinton administration's lackluster enforcement of its own law requiring very limited Medicaid funding for abortions is an indication of what a dead end this is — especially for working-class women.

Mobilizations by defenders of abortion rights are what has kept the clinics open, dealing demoralizing blows to groups like Operation Rescue in the process. Thousands of young people have joined in these clinic defense actions across the country over the last few years, despite insistence by many of those who hail the "freedom of access" law that they should rely on the cops and government instead. It is when supporters of abortion rights have not mobilized, leaving the job to the cops, that the rightists have been able to shut down clinics.

The 1991 Wichita, Kansas, events, when hundreds of rightist thugs successfully blocked clinics for weeks is a case in point.

Related questions come up around "sexual predator" laws, such as the one just passed in Iowa. These measures, which are presented as a way to protect women and children from sexual abuse, are a brazen attack on basic democratic rights that the entire labor movement should vigorously oppose.

Under the Iowa law the state can hold prisoners indefinitely, long after they have served out their sentences; jail individuals on charges they have never been found guilty of by a jury; severely limit appeal rights; and demand inmates essentially prove that they will not in the future commit a crime. This law gives cops and courts much greater leeway to do what they want with workers behind bars, throwing aside presumption of innocence, due process, and other safeguards the working class has won over the years.

Like antipornography laws that promote censorship in the name of combating violence against women, "sexual predator" statutes do nothing to solve the problem of sexual violence, which is fundamentally a product of the oppression of women in class society.

Instead of looking to court restrictions of basic liberties, supporters of abortion rights need to rely on themselves and their mobilizations, as thousands have done at clinics in the last couple of years, and join in other struggles of fighting workers like the showdown brewing at Caterpillar. This is the only way to protect democratic and social rights, including the right to choose abortion. In the process, workers and youth will gain greater self-confidence and forge the solidarity needed to replace capitalism with a system that does not breed sexual discrimination, violence against women, and other forms of oppression.

# Canada teachers strike

Continued from front page

grams.

Provincial premier Clyde Wells has ruled out legislation to try to force teachers back to work.

On May 12, just days before the Newfoundland teachers walked off the job, 68 percent of the 11,000-member Nova Scotia Teachers Union voted in favor of strike action.

More than a dozen other Nova Scotia public sector unions are also conducting strike votes. The results will be announced May 23.

Hundreds of union meetings are being held across this province for workers to discuss the implications of unilaterally-imposed job cutbacks and a 3 percent wage rollback for public sector workers who make more than \$25,000 a year.

The government has placed ads in the daily newspapers to convince people that the provincial budget deficit is a justification for slashing social service spending.

## Defend union rights

Workers are furious that the government simply imposed the cutbacks. "Are we trying to get them not to take 3 percent [off wages] or are we trying to get them not to take collective bargaining away from us?" one union member asked at a May 10 meeting of nurses.

"Collective bargaining," answered Jeanette McChesney, president of the Nova Scotia Nurses Union. "There are no guarantees, but if you come away with 3 percent less, you had a choice, a right to bargain. What will be the next right to be removed?"

At a Pictou county teachers union meeting the same day, one worker asked if anyone there had ever been on strike as a teacher before. She recounted her strike experience as a young teacher in Quebec City 20 years ago.

"I was petrified. The police were there with their billy clubs. We were out for three weeks. I'll never forget it. But I will vote for a strike. . . . The power shown then by the Quebec teachers' union proved to the government these people mean what they're saying." She explained that joint action by many unions raised teachers' wages by thousands of dollars a year in the space of a few years.

Everywhere you go in Nova Scotia, government cutbacks and possible strike action are on people's lips.

Seventy-year-old Samuel Colley, a retired construction worker, supports the teachers. "In my time you went to school for three or four years and then went to the farm," he said. "It's different now. Today, you get 10 years of schooling and you go out and get something, if the government has something to give. The teachers are just doing their best to educate working people."

A medical secretary in the rehabilitation department of the Victoria General Hospital stopped to talk on her way to work. "I think all the unions should go out. But I don't think they will. A lot of them are just a lot of talk. But if the nurses go on strike, I'm not crossing the picket line. I'm staying home," she said. Her job is nonunion.

A student going to work at the same hospital said, "It's scary. I try not to think about the future."

Meanwhile, almost 8,000 people demonstrated in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, May 11 against the 7.5 percent wage rollback sought by the provincial government from public sector employees in that province.

It was the biggest labor march ever in Prince Edward Island and the third major protest in as many weeks. Banners from unions representing teachers, nurses, government employees, postal workers, telephone company employees, and numerous others, as well as many handmade signs, dotted the crowd.

Chants of "No cuts! Contracts are not to be broken!" rang out and cheers greeted each contingent as it reached the steps of the provincial legislature.

"What they did in South Africa shows we can do it here. Today the poor and oppressed have only one voice — that's the unions," said Barry Smith, a member of the Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees.

Delegates at the Canadian Labour Congress convention in Toronto, representing more than 2 million union members across Canada, adopted an emergency resolution May 17 protesting public sector wage rollbacks in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and pledging solidarity.

Katy LeRougetel is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 6932. Colin McKay and Roger Annis also contributed to this article.

## CORRECTION

In the *International Socialist Review* titled "The Changing Face of U.S. Politics" published in the May 16 *Militant*, part of a sentence was inadvertently omitted in the continuity between page 13 and page 18.

The complete sentence should have read: "The 1985 resolution points out that given this gap between [today's conditions and the class battles that lie ahead, 'a] worker who understands that the course of the current labor officialdom is gutting union power and leading to a dead end still must make an individual leap in consciousness in order to see the strategic line of march of the proletariat toward power.'" The dropped line appears in brackets.



# Seafarers in New Zealand prepare to fight lockout

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

The Seafarers Union is preparing to respond to a major union-busting assault on the Cook Strait ferry service in New Zealand. About 500 workers operate the ferries, which run between the country's North and South Islands. Their contract expired at the end

South African election. □

## North Carolina Kmart workers demand contract

Sixty-four members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) and their supporters were arrested April 24 during a sit-in at a Kmart-sponsored golf tournament in Greensboro, North Carolina. They were protesting the company's refusal to negotiate a contract with the union. The workers voted to be represented by ACTWU in September 1993.

The merchandising giant opened a distribution center in Greensboro in April 1992.

"At first it sounded nice, all the benefits and everything," Arthur Frazer said April 18 at a community meeting to support the workers' fight. "Then they started taking dominion over us. We started [the

port committee was formed. Statements of support can be sent to ACTWU Local 2603, 1010 Tucker Ave., Greensboro, NC 27405. □

## Oil, Chemical workers celebrate union vote

Workers at Snow Environmental held a victory celebration at the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) union hall in Linwood, Pennsylvania, immediately after voting to join OCAW Local 8-234 on May 6.

Snow Environmental is a previously unorganized company that cleans up toxic oil and chemical spills and waste. They have contracts with British Petroleum and Sun Oil refineries in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania; Chevron and Sun Oil refineries in Philadelphia; and Boeing Vertol.

John Cannon, an executive board member of Local 8-234 and coordinator of the organizing drive, said, "Members of our local have noticed for a long time that these guys who are mostly Puerto Rican work exceedingly hard. We found out that a three tier wage system existed based on race and nationality. Puerto Ricans and other Hispanic people are paid the least, Blacks a little more, and whites even higher, though still substandard for the work they are doing."

Eddie Colon, who has worked for Snow for six years, said, "Our main demands are wages, benefits, safety, and most of all self-respect. Since I got hired, every white person hired on received \$9.50 an hour to start. Hispanics with the same qualifications started at \$6-\$6.50 an hour, depending on how management felt about the individual. If they spoke English and had a driver's license they would start at \$6.50."

Angelo Hernandez explained, "I get paid \$9.40 an hour after working 14 years. I know all the jobs but they say that the wages I receive are sufficient."

Many workers said that management at Snow Environmental had a real lack of concern for health and safety. The company has not pro-



Hospital workers protest May 11 in Brooklyn, New York, against proposed health-care cutbacks in Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's budget.

vided all the workers with necessary training or safety equipment. □

## Nurses in Nova Scotia discuss strike action

More than 120 members of the Nova Scotia Nurses Union in the New Glasgow area of Nova Scotia, Canada, crowded into a hotel meeting room the evening of May 10 to hear a recommendation from their president, Jeanette McChesney, to vote yes for a strike in the upcoming poll.

In the past three days 17 such meetings have been held to allow the 4,000 union members to debate their participation in the growing fightback by public-sector unions against unilaterally imposed government wage rollbacks and job cuts.

"Do you think you can change what the government is doing?" asked McChesney.

A number of people shouted back "no." One nurse said, "I think if everyone sticks together we can."

Nurses spoke about the job losses and pay reductions they have suffered. They reiterated several times that it was the union-busting denial of collective bargaining that was their main concern.

The nearly two-hour discussion was not formally chaired by anyone. Nurses spoke up in a serious to-and-fro where a wide variety of

opinions were expressed. Many nurses in the area are either single parents or the sole wage-earner in the family.

"If we're legislated back — what's the good of going out?" asked one nurse.

"The talk from other unions is — if we're legislated back, you don't go. You go out until you get some movement," said McChesney.

"If we give it our best and try and still don't get anything, at least we'll be satisfied in our mind that we tried to stop him [Premier John Savage] and we couldn't. And we won't just sit at home frustrated," said one nurse.

To applause, another nurse firmly stated, "Jeanette, I don't like the idea of going out on strike. But now we have the opportunity to do something, let's take the opportunity to do it." □

The following people contributed to this week's column: James Robb, member of New Zealand Meat Workers Union in Auckland, New Zealand; Robert Dees, member of ACTWU in Greensboro, North Carolina; Deborah Liatos, member of OCAW Local 8-234 in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania; Katy Le-Rougetel, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 6932, and Colin McKay, in Toronto.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

of April. The ferry owners — New Zealand Rail — have announced their intention to lay off half the crews and force the remaining workers to greatly increase the number of days worked per year. A formal lockout notice was issued by New Zealand Rail, effective May 23.

Seafarers Union president Dave Morgan told a May 1 Workers Day rally in Auckland, "Workers must fight internationally, politically, and industrially." Responding to the charge that unions and unionists are "yesterday's men," he pointed out that already in the ferry dispute workers had seen "the open hiring of thugs, the secret employment of scabs, the driving down of wages and conditions, and preparations for attacks on picket lines — just as in the time of the first May Day."

Morgan paid tribute to the recent victory in South Africa, saying the African National Congress had used "the full repertoire of means at their disposal" to advance their fight. Over many years, the Seafarers Union had held stoppages to mark Sharpeville Day, and members had levied themselves to support the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

The second speaker at the rally was Nomaza Paintin, a South African woman living in New Zealand who was the first person in the world to cast her vote in the

fight] because they treat us less than human."

In addition, "we're not getting paid the money the other distribution centers are getting," Frazer said. The pay scale at the plant ranges from \$6.75 to \$8.50 an hour, considerably less than the \$10-\$13.65 Kmart pays at other distribution centers.

One worker after another got up at this support meeting and described the conditions they face.

"I get angry when they take us out in 37-degree weather, in the drizzle, making us take off our coats so they can search us," said one worker. He also denounced management's racist statements and sexual harassment of female employees.

These conditions have caused a turnover of some 1,100 workers — fired or harassed into quitting — in just two years.

Workers have organized a series of public activities to build support for their fight and pressure the company. They also hold meetings and rallies at work — in break rooms and at the plant-gate.

Little was accomplished at the monthly negotiating session following the sit-in, a unionist reported at the second community meeting April 26. One speaker from the audience, who works at a local nonunion distribution center, said, "The subject of unions, which many workers would discuss in whispers if at all, is now a legitimate topic of conversation."

At this meeting, an ongoing sup-

## LETTERS

### Capitalism's gravediggers

I recently learned of the death this past fall of a friend and comrade, Brian Riffert.

Brian and I were high school classmates in Philadelphia. I remember his political views at the time as being extremely conservative. Periodically, we argued on such issues as the merits of the Cuban revolution and the burgeoning conflict in Southeast Asia. After graduation I did not have any contact with him until eight years later.

During that period the world changed — and so did Brian. He had attended Curtis and Julliard music schools and became a bassoonist with the New York City Ballet orchestra. Shortly thereafter he was drafted and became a musician with the U.S. Army band. Subsequently, the band was broken up and its members were sent into the infantry. Brian saw a lot of action and firsthand witnessed much killing and devastation wrought by U.S. forces. During one particular action he was hit by shrapnel, which became embedded in his neck. This effectively ended his career as a musician.

The Vietnam experience had

transformed Brian. Not only had his musical career been ended but he had seen firsthand the murderous results of U.S. imperialism. Brian always said that the destruction of Vietnam and millions of its people was one of the greatest crimes committed against humanity.

After returning to the United States and recovering from his wounds, Brian became an apprentice printer and went to work at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution where he met a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

Brian joined the SWP in Atlanta and was a loyal comrade and friend. Wanting to utilize his skills as a printer, the Party asked him to move to New York to help upgrade its printshop. As a professional printer he was able to train comrades and help the printshop become the professional institution it is today. In the mid-1980s Brian left the SWP but retained his revolutionary outlook and optimism for a socialist future.

Brian felt that the liver cancer that eventually felled him was partly due to the effects of Agent Orange, which the Veterans Administration refused to acknowledge.

Karl Marx said that capitalism creates its own gravediggers. Brian was an example of this observation. He survived the horror of imperialist war and was able to become part of the organized movement that would lead working people to help replace capitalism with a more just and rational society. Brian was one of those individuals whose contributions and dedication to the movement should be recognized.

Edwin Fruit  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment

The *Militant's* coverage on the recent U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment largely ignored the trip through Mexico, which was for many of the "caravanistas" an important part of the project.

The assorted buses, trucks, and other vehicles traveled from Nuevo Laredo to Tampico, roughly 370 miles, with the Friendshipment slogans — "¡Cuba sí, Bloqueo no!, End the Blockade," etc., in Spanish and English, on their sides.

No one I talked with was prepared for the tremendous response of the Mexican people. There were crews

working on the road we were traveling, and, almost without exception, the workers in these crews would turn away from their work for a moment to raise the closed-hand solidarity salute, yell "¡Viva Cuba!", applaud, wave, or in some way express their solidarity and support. We received a similar response from the people of Nuevo Laredo, Tampico, and the numerous small towns we passed through. Shopkeepers, women with children in their arms, students — the whole population — turned toward the caravan, smiling, waving, and shouting.

The Mexican dock workers, according to Tom Hansen of Pastors for Peace, donated their time to load the 150 tons of humanitarian material onto the Cuban freighter.

In Tampico, the caravanistas met with members of the Tampico Regional Committee of the Mexican-Cuban Friendship group Va por Cuba in the Plaza de la Libertad, an open public space in Tampico. The Plaza was festooned with Cuban flags, and the hundreds of caravanistas and local people were given paper Cuban flags, which we raised and waved in response to a

number of speakers. There was live music, and as night fell, the area was brightly lit by lanterns. At one point in the evening, in response to an appeal to honor the memory of Emiliano Zapata, a chant was raised for the Zapatista rebels: "¡ChiaPAS! ChiaPAS! ChiaPAS!"

The great love that the Mexican people have for Cuba is an indicator of the tremendous international solidarity that people of the world have for Cuba, both in this special period and in the victory to come.

Bob Brown  
Asheville, North Carolina

### Valuable tool

The *Militant* is the only source for clear, concise analysis and leadership. It is a valuable tool.

D.P.  
Albany, New York

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



## Young socialists launch fund drive

BY NAOMI CRAINE

NEW YORK — Socialist youth around the United States are launching a \$9,000 fund to finance the work of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC). Over the next few months, dozens of SYOC members around the country will be joining in a wide range of political activities, organizing classes, working to recruit new members, and building an international socialist youth gathering to be held in August in Oberlin, Ohio.

"We hope that all supporters of the socialist movement — of all ages — contribute to this fund," said Mark Gilsdorf, a member of the SYOC steering committee. "We have a lot of opportunities to work with students and young workers who are repelled by the future that capitalism has to offer and who want to be part of building a socialist movement. The fund drive will help us take advantage of these openings."

The money will allow leaders of SYOC to work with local young socialist groups and with young people interested in forming groups in their areas. It will also cover telephone, mailing, and other expenses.

Members of SYOC will be taking goals for fund-raising in their areas, both for the national fund drive and to get themselves and others to the August meeting. Young

socialists in Salt Lake City, Utah, are already getting some experience in raising money to finance their activities while carrying out other political projects (see article below).

In addition, the SYOC steering committee is appealing to supporters of the socialist youth to give generously to the fund by sending in a contribution with the coupon below. A chart in the *Militant* will follow the progress of the fund drive, which will end July 31.

BY TAMI PETERSON  
AND BRIAN PUGH

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The Young Socialists of Utah and members of SYOC had a very successful weekend of politics and fund-raising here May 14-15, collecting \$600 in all.

The weekend's events were kicked off with a dinner before a Militant Labor Forum where Buddy Beck, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, gave an eyewitness report on the elections in South Africa. Beck served as an international election observer with a trade union delegation. Local South African activists prepared the dinner.

Beck spoke about the determination with which those who had fought for years against the racist apartheid system braved intimidation and harassment to cast their votes in

South Africa's first democratic election.

At a party after the forum, the Young Socialists raffled several T-shirts, hats, and other items that Beck had brought back from South Africa and donated to the group. A print of the portrait of Nelson Mandela from the Pathfinder Mural in New York was auctioned for a whopping \$40.

The following morning the group held a garage sale of donated books, furniture, and other items, and then hosted a barbecue for supporters and friends of SYOC.

At the barbecue the Young Socialists announced a public educational series. The first class will be on the introduction to the new edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-class politics and the trade unions*, which appeared in the May 16 issue of the *Militant*.

BY DAMON TINNON

DES MOINES, Iowa — "This is a time for celebration," Mukiri Wa Githendu said at an April 30 meeting here to celebrate the elections in South Africa. "These elections represent the death of apartheid," he explained.

Wa Githendu, who is a student at Iowa State University in Ames, shared the panel with other activists, including Damon Tinnon, a member of the SYOC steering committee from Minneapolis. Tinnon said,

"One of the most important things about the unfolding revolution in South Africa is that millions of South Africans who participated in the struggle against apartheid have gained the political confidence to move forward."

Ola Fetty, a leader of the newly formed Young Revolutionaries in Ames, said she had never learned so much about South Africa before. "This is a really important thing for me. I learned a lot tonight," she said. The Young Revolutionaries are a socialist group based at Ames High School.

After the meeting, Wa Githendu invited Tinnon to Iowa State to speak at a May 3 celebration of the victory in South Africa. Some 30 people attended that meeting. Speakers there explained that the elections and the overwhelming vote for the African National Congress were a victory not just for South Africans but for all of humanity.

"This revolution speaks to every corner of the world — to the Palestinians, to the people of the former Yugoslavia, to the people of Northern Ireland," said Tinnon.

Before the event, he and SYOC member Ryan Kelly, also from Minneapolis, met with a dozen of the Young Revolutionaries, who said they want to work with SYOC and have further discussions. Several of the Young Revolutionaries then joined the celebration.

## Youth demand prosecution of N.Y. killer cops

BY SIBYL PERKINS

STATEN ISLAND, New York — The New York City Medical Examiner's Office ruled May 9 that the death of 22-year-old Ernest Sayon while in police custody was a homicide. As news of the report spread throughout the neighborhood of the slain Black youth, young friends and neighbors began to mobilize for a protest to demand the cops who killed Sayon be prosecuted.

Sayon was beaten to death by police on April 29 during a routine "drug sweep," the code words for the daily harassment and random arrests that are common in the Park Hill housing project here.

The statement issued by Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Charles Hirsch said the cause of death was "asphyxia by compression of chest and neck while rear-handcuffed and prone on the ground immediately following a struggle in which he sustained blunt impacts to his head and trunk." Sayon had a three-quarter inch gash on his scalp. The report concluded he was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

To fight back against the cop violence, young people in the projects have organized a group called Unity Tree. The name comes from a tree that has been spray-painted as a memorial to Sayon.

Darren Glasper, a spokesperson for the group, led the 300-strong march to Borough Hall where the protesters were met by New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Borough President Guy Molinari. "This is not about



Protesters paint "No justice, no peace," at site of cop killing of Black youth, New York.

race," Glasper, 23, said. "They could have done this to anyone. We have to fight this. I don't want my son growing up having to be afraid of the cops."

Members of the group say they plan to organize more protests and discuss other action to seek justice. "Everyone is in Unity

Tree," said one young woman, "especially all the young people." The group is selling T-shirts that portray Sayon to raise money for funeral expenses.

Giuliani was heckled by the protesters. "Let the system work," the mayor said. "We have to be fair to both sides. Nothing can be helped by further anger." Giuliani urged the demonstrators to "be patient and await the outcome of a grand jury investigation."

Police Commissioner William Bratton also said the homicide ruling did not imply criminal behavior on the part of the three cops.

James Lysaght, a lawyer for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, argued that the cops' actions "were consistent with proper police action under the circumstances and were in no way criminal."

The signs the young people at the protest carried told a different story. "Killer cops," read one. Another said "Not desk duty, no duty." Although witnesses say five to eight cops beat Sayon, only three officers have been removed from the streets. They have been transferred to desk jobs with full pay.

"The cops should go to jail like we would if we killed someone," Sharod Singletary said. "I don't have any sympathy for them. They say they're just trying to do their job. But that's not true. I know them. They do this every day."

BY EUGENE FISCHER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thirty people signed up for information on SYOC and its activities at a day-long music festival hosted by a local radio station here May 14. Thousands passed through the area where dozens of political and social groups set up booths.

There was a lot of discussion around the table of Pathfinder books. Three copies of the pamphlet *Fascism: What it is and how to fight it* by Leon Trotsky were purchased by young people looking for an answer to that question.

Many of those passing by were interested in the ideas of Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. A group of students from Fredrick, Maryland, who have a socialist youth group on their campus, stopped by and bought the pamphlets *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today: Cuba Confronts the World Crisis of the '90s* by Mary-Alice Waters and *Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods* by Fidel Castro.

Several people were interested in the book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, which contains speeches given by Nelson Mandela and Castro during Mandela's visit to Cuba in 1991. "Who is Fidel Castro, and why is he in that picture with Mandela?" was a common question.

The authors are all members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee.

### SUPPORT THE SOCIALIST YOUTH ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FUND DRIVE!

Young socialists across the United States are working to build a nationwide organization that can be part of the international working-class movement to put an end to the horrors of capitalism and begin to build a new world.

You can help by contributing to the \$9,000 SYOC Fund Drive. Just fill out the coupon below and send it with your contribution to the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee, Box 113, 561 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014.

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